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JORDAN SERIALS DIVISION

THE TIMES

No. 64,531 SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1993 50p

Thatcherite prosperity is Major's hope for 90s

■ After the gloom and political turmoil of 1992, John Major has set aside his reputation for excessive caution and is predicting a decade of economic prosperity to match the Thatcherite 80s

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday held out the prospect of a decade of growth that could re-create the prosperity of the Thatcher era as he predicted confidently that 1993 would be a year of recovery.

After what he admitted had been a miserable year for many, Mr Major sounded his most upbeat note so far about opportunities for business and industry in the coming year. He said: "We now have inflation down to 3 per cent, we have interest rates at 7 per cent, we have a highly competitive exchange rate, we have exports growing. It is very many years since we had that benign combination of circumstances. Recovery, I think, will be clear this year. That seems overwhelmingly to be the view of business and commerce and industry."

Mr Major's most striking departure from recent cautious forecasts was his suggestion that there could be a repeat of the long period of growth Britain achieved under his predecessor. He said in an interview on *The World at One* on BBC Radio 4: "As I look back to the beginning of the 1980s, when we came out of the last recession, many people then were worried about our prospects. But we then had a whole span of years, nearly a complete decade, in which we had steady, sustainable growth, growth in GDP, growth in jobs, growth in prosperity. Provided we follow the right policies, I believe that prospect hangs there again."

Mr Major said that the world generally had been a "very sour place economically and politically". He accepted that fear of unemployment acted as a brake on confidence, but now there was a much greater confidence in industry. That meant they were more likely to invest, and more jobs were likely to be created. More confident people were more likely to spend, and the manufacturers would make the products they wanted to buy. "I hope that we are now beginning to get into that virtuous cycle."

It was often overlooked that — in spite of the business closures — some 400,000 new firms started last year. Jobs were re-created in the early 1980s through the expansion of small and medium-size business and self-employment "and that, I believe, is the way back to create jobs in the future. What I wish to see is this country back into growth, see us create new jobs, and I point back to what has been done before to show you that it can be done again."

Mr Major spoke of his desire for a wider industrial base, with expansion in areas of manufacturing that had fallen away in recent years. He endorsed the employment secretary's plans to increase the status of vocational qualifications, which he said should have the same status as A levels: "Let us break down the artificial distinction between the white-collar worker who gets his A-level and goes off to work in a bank, and the blue-collar worker who gets his vocational qualification and goes off to be an engineer, electrician or plumber."

During a wide-ranging interview, Mr Major spoke of his ambition to make British Rail proud of its service again. Describing his plans for passenger services as "semi-privatisation" for the first time, he said that bringing in private sector skills through franchising would help to restore it as a proud and efficient service. He denied that his description amounted to a change of language and pledged that the legislation, which has critics on the Conservative side of the Commons, will be passed in the present session of parliament.

He insisted that there would be no difficulty in working satisfactorily with Bill Clinton, the incoming American president. "I have spoken on two occasions to Governor Clinton. There is not a shred of a doubt that both he and I want the very remarkable relationship there has been between the US and the UK for a long time to continue. "It is not a matter of sentiment, it is a matter of cold, hard, joint national interest, and that will continue". He *thought* there would be "no difficulty working satisfactorily with the new presidency."

Lamont at odds with advisers

NORMAN Lamont appears to be at odds over interest rates with most of his new panel of independent economic forecasters, who are to meet for the first time next month. Six out of seven believe interest rates must come down further to secure economic recovery, and two — professors Wynne Godley and Patrick Minford — are openly urging an immediate cut from 7 to 5 per cent.

Seven wise men, page 32



A moment of prayer: President Bush pauses yesterday while on a tour of US Army operations in Somalia



A moment of hope: a child at a Baidoa feeding station

For one child, a battle is lost

FROM SAM KILEY IN BAIDOA

HUNDREDS of children hung freshly cut bougainvillaea on the clothes lines in their orphanage yesterday and practised their welcoming songs ahead of the arrival of President Bush.

But in a quiet room, away from all the excitement, one more orphan lost his long battle with death. Isaac Ali, who they guessed was about nine, had tottered into the orphanage suffering from advanced starvation and had kept death at bay for a month with little but willpower.

Just an hour before Mr Bush, his secret service bodyguards, press attachés and attendant foreign correspondents, swept into the orphanage, which has become home for 725 children, Isaac's breathing began to fail, his feet and fingers to grow cold.

"He's a real fighter — a bit of a tyke. He should be dead by now, but the sad thing is that he will fight on and prolong the pain to the last," said Zoe O'Neill, a volunteer nurse with Goal, the Irish charity.

Other children in the centre, which has been run by Dr Mahmoud Imam throughout the worst of the inter-clan fighting that reduced Baidoa to a city of the dead and dying, took little notice of Isaac's last hour. The name George Bush meant nothing to them, but they found the excitement of the aid workers and marines

Continued on page 2, col 3

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Clinton clears way to strike at Serbs in his first week

BY JAMIE DETTMER AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Pentagon is drawing up military plans that would allow Bill Clinton to order US forces to intervene in Bosnia-Herzegovina within a week of assuming the presidency.

Ideas being considered include unilateral action by America to enforce the air exclusion zone over the former Yugoslav republic, an option also being contemplated by President Bush.

Senior American officials — who hold out little hope for today's Geneva peace talks — have become increasingly frustrated at the Nato allies' failure to agree a policing formula to put to the UN, and it was disclosed yesterday that Mr Bush was still thinking of striking out without the support of Britain and France. The two countries are suspected of delaying deliberately a UN resolution until the Clinton inauguration and are often described by US officials as spineless and pusillanimous. The State Department has nicknamed John Major "the man with the black umbrella" in a reference to Neville Chamberlain.

Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, confirmed that Mr Bush might yet act alone, but he told *The Washington Post*: "The Somalian venture argues against it. One unfinished intervention on Clinton's plate on January 20 is enough."

Britain and France have certainly been taking a more cautious approach, but Douglas Hurd has given a warning of armed action and Mr Major said yesterday that the Serbs would come under greater military and diplomatic pressure. President Mitterrand, who will discuss the conflict with Mr Bush in Paris tomorrow, called on Thursday for wider allied action.

The prime minister suggested in a BBC radio interview yesterday that sanctions could be increased dramatically, but declined to comment on what other steps could be taken. "Serbia should understand the increasing impatience and despair felt in the West at the way they have been behaving," he said. "I do not believe they should push that impatience too far."

Senior government officials confirmed that various options were under study, but made plain that they stopped short of using ground troops. Mr Hurd, meanwhile, cautioned against unrealistic expectations of what the UN could achieve. In his new year message to diplomatic staff,



the foreign secretary said that public opinion would not contemplate the casualties that would be required to impose a "new world order".

The human cost of any operation in Bosnia is being closely considered by Mr Clinton, and the Pentagon has drawn up estimates of casualty figures for various scenarios. The president-elect is keen to be in a position to move quickly and one military planner said: "We are arranging it so that if he makes a pledge to move on January 21, he can fulfil it within a week."

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Call for plea deals

JUDGES could soon enter into a formal system of plea-bargaining with defendants seeking a reduced sentence in return for a guilty plea.

Such a system, which has the backing of leading legal figures, is to be recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice which reports this year. The idea of discounting sentences by as much as 30 per cent is favoured as one way of curbing soaring legal aid costs.

The scheme would involve a system in which a defendant would as a matter of course have the chance to seek an indication from the judge before trial on the probable sentence discount should he plead guilty. Because the term "plea bargaining" has overtones of underhand negotiation, the scheme would have a more neutral name, such as "sentence enquiry" or "sentence indication". Among those who favour the scheme are Barbara Mills QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, and Lord Williams of Mostyn QC, last year's Bar chairman.

Sentence discounts, page 2

Churchill war role under fire

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

A RADICAL reappraisal of the life of Churchill published next week questions the achievements of the century's most famous statesman and asks whether the second world war should ever have been fought.

In *The Times* today, John Charmley's *Churchill: The End of Glory* is described by Alan Clark, the former trade minister, as "probably the most important 'revisionist' text since the war". In his review, Mr Clark argues that by refusing to make peace with Hitler in 1940 and 1941, Churchill betrayed the Commonwealth, lost the Far Eastern empire and shattered the British social order.

Mr Charmley, a visiting fellow at the Churchill Memorial in Fulton, Missouri, said the book was the first study seriously to challenge the orthodox view of Churchill.

"I'm probably the first historian to come to Churchill without the baggage of memories. What I'm trying to do is get behind the hagiography and do a Churchill on Churchill, who was one for warts and all." While Churchill's achievements in India had been underestimated, his wartime policy was less successful, Mr Charmley added.

"The book asks whether the second world war was worth it because by the end of the war Churchill started saying that if the Americans withdrew from Europe we would be in a worse state than we were in 1938. There's a sense in which, by 1945, Churchill needed the Cold war."

Ripe for revision, page 12

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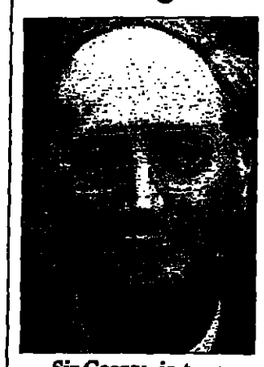
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'Bicycling baronet' Young heads for place in cabinet



Sir George: in tune on social issues

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR George Young, the housing minister, is emerging as a strong contender for elevation to the cabinet in a limited reshuffle expected to be carried out by John Major next May or June.

Senior cabinet sources say that Sir George, who surprisingly was brought back into the government in 1990 after more than four years in the wilderness, is held in the highest regard by the prime minister. Mr Major is said to be impressed by Sir George's work in the environment department since he promoted him to housing minister after his leadership victory in November 1990. He backs Sir George's initiative to revive the private rented sector.

The ministers most frequently mentioned as the next entrants to the cabinet are Stephen Dorrell, the Treasury financial secretary, and John Redwood, the local government minister. While both are expected to reach the cabinet before long, cabinet sources believe that Sir George heads the promotion list. Baroness Blatch, the education minister, is also strongly tipped by sources close to Mr Major for a cabinet post as soon as one becomes available.

Promotion to the cabinet would complete a remarkable comeback for Sir George, often called the "bicycling baronet". He is one of the handful of ministers still serving who were appointed to the government by Margaret Thatcher in 1979.

As a junior health minister he upset the tobacco industry with his determined anti-smoking drive. He was moved to the environment department but sacked — unjustly in the eyes of most of his colleagues — in 1986. Baroness Thatcher brought him back to the whips' office in July 1990. A cabinet source said: "George is a true Majorite. They think in the same way on social issues."

Having firmly ruled out a reshuffle early this year, Mr Major is expected to use the departure from office of Tristan Garel-Jones, the foreign office minister, after the passage of the Maastricht bill to make changes to the government. In an interview yesterday on *The World at One*, on Radio 4, Mr Major again strongly backed his Chancellor, Norman Lamont, saying that he had no control over three principal external events that led to the problems of Black Wednesday: the Danish referendum, the French referendum and the Bundesbank's briefing.

"I do not propose to sack a Chancellor of the Exchequer because of something that happened in Denmark, France and Germany," Mr Major said. He praised Mr Lamont's "reforming budget" last year and his Autumn Statement, which had been broadly welcomed by industry and commerce as one of the basics for getting back to recovery.

Postcard gives clue to Johanna Young death

An anonymous scribbled postcard could be an important clue to the murder of Johanna Young, 14, the police said yesterday. The postcard, sent to the *Eastern Daily Press* newspaper, featured stick drawings of a motor cycle and two people, labelled "youth" and "girl". Above was scrawled "Griston Rd. Watton 23/12. 9pm".

Johanna was last seen about 45 minutes earlier on December 23 in her home village of Watton. Her body was found on Boxing day in a nearby woodland pit where she had drowned after being beaten and sexually assaulted.

Detectives said the card could be helpful. They added, however: "It is an interesting letter, but we can't attach too much importance to it because it was anonymous. In any enquiry of this kind, you're going to attract cranks."

Listed terrace destroyed

Fire destroyed a terrace of listed buildings yesterday in Marlborough, Wiltshire. Firemen prevented a repeat of the Great Fire of Marlborough, which destroyed almost the whole town in the 17th century. Salvage teams are trying to reclaim building materials from the terrace in the High Street, which was built with the proceeds of a nationwide appeal after the Great Fire. Damage to the ground-floor shops with offices and flats above was estimated at more than £1 million.

Breast cancer warning

Women should consider having their last baby by the age of 35 if they want to minimise the chance of getting breast cancer, British researchers claim. Studies of over 1,000 women, the results of which are published in *The Lancet*, indicate that it is the age at which a woman completes a family that lowers or increases her chances of getting cancer. That challenges studies from the 1960s which suggested that a woman's age at her first pregnancy was the main risk factor.

Castle sale expected

Herstmonceux Castle, former home of the royal observatory, is expected to be bought by an unnamed Canadian university for nearly £5 million. Its officials are negotiating a purchase from the Guinness Mahon bank. The 16th century castle and its 530-acre grounds near Lewes, East Sussex, were offered for £20 million two years ago.

Two men shot in Belfast

Two Roman Catholics were shot in a Belfast street yesterday as Loyalist terrorists threatened to step up their campaign in 1993. One of the men was seriously wounded. Soon afterwards an IRA bomb was defused in a central Belfast hairdressers' shop. The attacks, together with the incendiary bombing of eight buses in a Londonderry depot, showed both armed camps intent on rejecting political and church pleas for peace. Last year, 84 people were killed in bombings and shootings and nearly 1,000 injured in Northern Ireland.

Commission to back sentence discounts for guilty pleas

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMAL system of plea-bargaining, in which the judge would tell the defendant his likely sentence discount if he pleaded guilty, is to be recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice when it reports this year.

The idea, floated in a Bar Council working party report last summer, would not need legislation and could be brought into immediate effect. It is backed by leading legal figures, including Barbara Mills QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, and Lord Williams of Mostyn QC, Bar chairman last year. John Taylor MP, parliamentary secretary to the Lord Chancellor, has said that he favours sentence discounts for guilty pleas as a way of curbing soaring legal aid costs.

The royal commission is now looking at details of how a plea-bargaining scheme could operate. It is considering a system in which defendants routinely would have the chance to seek an indication from the judge before trial as to their likely sentence discount if they pleaded guilty.

The hearings would not be open to the public, but prosecution and defence lawyers would be present. It is possible that the sentence would be reduced by as much as 30 per cent for a guilty plea. The judge would not be required to indicate the discount; in some cases there may be problems, such as where a defendant is one of a group.

The scheme would not be called "plea-bargaining" because of that term's overtones of unlawful underhand negotiations. Hearings would have a more neutral name, such as a "sentence enquiry" or "sentence indication".

Research conducted for the royal commission by Professor Michael Zander has found overwhelming support for a system of plea-bargaining, with two in three judges and 90 per cent of barristers agreeing. However, there is opposition from civil libertarians and some sections of the criminal bar, who believe that it would encourage defendants to plead guilty when they had not committed any crime. Liberty, the civil liberties group, has said that it would put "unacceptable pressure on innocent and vulnerable defendants to plead guilty at an early stage".

John Wadham, Liberty's legal officer, has said that "the fundamental principle of presumption of innocence becomes largely irrelevant if the prospect of an increased sentence results in large numbers of defendants not being able to benefit from that principle".

Anthony Hooper, a leading criminal-law QC, has also expressed concern that plea-bargaining will prompt more wrong guilty pleas. "We should be very careful about introducing a fixed tariff [of sentence discounts]," he said.

The royal commission, mindful of the need to safeguard defendants' rights, believes that if plea-bargaining or "sentence enquiries" were carried out with the defendant's solicitor present in a routine way, pressures to plead guilty would be minimised.

Plea-bargaining, which would draw on what is daily practice in American criminal courts, is distinct from plea negotiation, which is allowed under the English criminal justice system. That involves prosecution and defence negotiating over charges, so that one charge might be lowered in return for a guilty plea on another. That is very different from the judge giving a formal indication of likely sentence in return for a plea.

The Court of Appeal so far has effectively outlawed indicating the sentence that would come after a guilty plea. As a result, judges are reluctant to discuss the question of sentence with counsel, although the practice was common before an appeal court ruling in 1970 that emphasised the importance of judges saying nothing that might look like inducing a guilty plea.

Plea-bargaining could go a long way towards cutting the huge cost of what are called "cracked" trials — those in which defendants plead guilty at the last minute. About 71 per cent of defendants plead not guilty and choose trial by jury, but up to 40 per cent of the trials are aborted because defendants change their minds at the last minute.

PAUL RICHARDS



Away from it all: the Princess of Wales takes to the surf off the West Indian island of Nevis, where she is holidaying with her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry. The princes had spent their first Christmas apart from their mother, with the rest of the royal family. Future holidays will also be divided between their parents

Britain maintains frontier formality

BY IAN MURRAY

A QUICK trip across to Calais yesterday was enough to show that a Europe without frontiers means something totally different on opposite sides of the Channel.

British subjects have to show passports to leave their country but do not need to produce any documents on arrival in France.

While at Dover immigration officers were refusing to allow anyone to leave unless they could produce a passport, at Calais the frosted glass window at the foot passenger control station remained firmly shut. There were officials in the control cabin for motorists, but they were only sheltering from the freezing fog. If any British motorists slowed instinctively they were waved through impatiently.

On the British side, border formalities are deliberately still in evidence as proof that the open border is seen as a threat. On the French side, shopkeepers have put up notices promising help to "our English friends".

The first and biggest road sign beyond the deserted Calais customs post says "shopping" and points to the town centre. The hypermarkets on the outskirts have been ordering extra stocks of beer and wine in confident expectation of an early invasion of British bargain-hunters.

Au Gourmet, the one wine shop open in Calais market square during the bank holiday yesterday, was doing little business but the owner was sure he would not have to wait many days before he would be selling more than ever before. "You English cannot resist a French bargain," he said.

Back at the port the first bargain hunters were clanking on to the ferries. Roger Poultney and his wife Moira from Croydon had come over for the day and bought 200 bottles of claret at 18 francs (£2) a bottle.

"We enjoy a bottle with our meal most evenings and an inferior one to this would have cost at least double back home," Mr Poultney said.

British customs officials have estimated that Britain will lose at least £250 million a year in lost VAT revenue through bulk purchases, which are meant to be for the personal use of the individual importing them.

The Brewers' Society, which claims that 6 per cent of all beer consumed in British homes is already brought across the Channel, has warned the government it will lose at least £100 million annually unless duty on British-brewed beers is reduced nearer to French levels.

Although customs officers no longer have responsibility for collecting VAT at the port, they are now setting up teams to raid shops suspected of selling alcohol and tobacco brought in over the Channel privately.

Customs are also concerned that drug smugglers have been stock-piling supplies on the Continent in recent weeks. There is evidence that big sums of money have been sent abroad, and it is suspected that these funds are being used to buy large quantities of drugs in the hope that they can be brought in through the open frontiers. Guarding against this means that entry to Britain from France remains greatly different from the journey in the opposite direction.

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Face to face with agony of Somalia

Continued from page 1

infectious. In any case at least one of their number dies each week and they have all seen their own families murdered or waste away like Isaac.

Mr Bush said he was proud that his troops were taking part in a "beautiful" mission, but after he entered the orphanage clinic the smiles for the troops and the cameras fell away.

"This is very emotional. I don't really know how to react," Mr Bush said.

The fighting which has reduced Somalia to a state of total social and economic collapse and has resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths like Isaac's, who lost his fight for life about 20 minutes before Mr Bush arrived in the orphanage, continued yesterday in the capital, Mogadishu.

Ali Hassam Osman, a spokesman for one of the factions of the United Somali Congress, said that at least 17 men had been killed and another 25 injured in five separate attacks on the north-western edge of the city.

"We want one of two things," said Ahmed Koofil, a resident of the area who came under attack. "Either the Americans come in to stop this fight, or we go to total war."

Midnight, and ITV's revolutionaries complete their Thatcherite takeover

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE chimes of midnight heralding the new year also signalled the completion of a Thatcherite revolution, although those not glued to television sets could be forgiven not noticing.

In London, Thames Television waved goodbye to its contract as the largest independent television company with Tina Turner's "Simply the Best", as already seen on departing TV-am.

A seamless transition ushered viewers into "A Carlton New Year" with Chris Tarrant, Paul McCartney and a Canadian funny man called Marty Putz. By yesterday afternoon, Carlton, Thames's successor, had settled into a comfortable takeover of the age-old *This is Your Life*, now called *Surprise Party* and hosted by that familiar old wrinklie, Michael Parkinson.

That set a pattern, for Carlton will also mimic the American sitcom *Golden Girls*, as seen on Channel 4, with *Brighton Belles*, and the American talk show host Oprah Winfrey with *The Chrystal Rose Show*. Nicholas Parsons presents a television version of BBC Radio's *Just A Minute*, while Dave Allen and David Frost return in familiar formats.



McCartney: marked a seamless transition



Streep: praise for South's Meridian

At 6am yesterday, Good Morning Television, the new independent breakfast station, came on air with a ten-minute news bulletin, which contained three live and successful satellite links and interviews with the prime minister and the leader of the Opposition. It then went through a roll call of its presenters, specialists and contributors, as if familiar faces such as Fiona Armstrong and Jeremy Beadle needed an introduction.

Despite an over-reliance on tried and tested formats and stars, Carlton will break some new ground, particularly with London News Network, a seven-day news operation owned jointly with LWT which promises to improve independent television's second-rate local news coverage in the capital.

In southern England, congratulatory messages of support from well-known names in film and television, including Meryl Streep, Sean Connery and Rupert Murdoch, punctuated the first day of Meridian Broadcasting's bid to attract the BBC viewers in the independent secor's southern region that its predecessor, TVS, often failed to reach.

Meridian is supposed to provide the sort of "upmarket" programmes independent television lacks at present: high-class comedy, arts, children's programmes and dramas outside the familiar detective and crime genres. Last night, Michael Palin promised viewers in "The First Night of Meridian" that the station would have millions laughing with its line-up of comic talent.

For the first time, viewers in the Thames Valley and north Hampshire got their own *Meridian Tonight* bulletin last night after the station's decision to add a third news sub-region in Newbury to TVS's existing Maidstone and Southampton studios.

Leading article, page 13

Girl raped on 15th birthday

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL was raped on her fifteenth birthday as she took a short cut to her home at Longbridge, West Midlands, on New Year's eve, West Midlands police said yesterday. Det Inspector Alan Small, who is leading the hunt for the rapist, said it was "a nasty and sickening attack. It appears to have been a random attack on a young girl who could never have defended herself, and this man must be caught quickly".

Mr Small said the girl was walking home from a friend's house after a shopping trip to spend her birthday money when she was attacked from behind, dragged through brambles and raped by the man, who claimed he had a knife. The girl had not heard her attacker approach because she was listening to a personal stereo, police said. The man ran off through a shallow stream after the rape and left the girl lying on the ground crying for help. She ran home to her parents, screaming hysterically.

Mr Small said: "I can't image what this girl must have gone through in the six to eight minutes of her attack."

هكذا من الأصل

'We should not let this incident panic us into boxing the lions in again,' zoo says

PETER TREVINOR



The lion that roared: Arfur, oblivious to the throng of excited spectators outside his compound at the London zoo yesterday, produced little more than a yawn for the assembled photographers

Mauled man has mental illness

BY RAY CLANCY

BEN Silcock, the man who was mauled when he jumped into the lion compound at London zoo to feed them chickens, is mentally ill, his father said yesterday.

Mr Silcock, 27, of Roehampton, southwest London, is in a serious but stable condition in hospital after emergency surgery for chest and stomach injuries. His behaviour was not out of character, according to his father and neighbours.

Bryan Silcock, of Putney, southwest London, said he had last seen his son on Christmas day when he appeared reasonably calm and rational. But he was undergoing psychiatric treatment after being diagnosed as a schizophrenic eight years ago. "He has been hospitalised several times but has managed on his own fairly successfully in the last 18 months. I can only guess at his motives for climbing into the enclosure, but he has always felt a deep attachment to animals," said Mr Silcock.

"He may have been under the illusion that he could establish some kind of mystical contact with them. He has expressed such ideas in the past. It was not, in my opinion, a suicide attempt."

Neighbours in Roehampton said Ben Silcock was well known for his love of cats and even wrote poems about them. Sara Scott, 21, said: "He's got a thing about cats. He feeds all the cats around here and you see him out on the street with them. He carries them on his shoulder and they often wait outside his flat for him."

London zoo, which is carrying out an enquiry into security, said last night that it was unlikely that the open-plan lion enclosure would be changed. Jo Gipps, the acting chief executive, said that the compound was designed to give the lions no contact with human beings.

"These lions are part of an international captive breeding programme to save their species from extinction. It would be obscene if the last surviving Asiatic lions were captives in a zoo, so our ultimate aim is to return them to the wild. To do that we want to preserve a wildness about them. For this reason we don't handle them or make any attempt to tame them," Mr Gipps said. "There is a barrier between the keepers and the animals at all times."

Putting more fencing around the pit would not prevent a determined person such as Mr Silcock getting in, Mr Gipps added. "You are never going to get 100 per cent security against someone doing this. You could put wire meshing across the whole pen, but I think that it is much more preferable to have the animals on clear view to the public. The trend in zoos is away from fencing in. We should not let an incident like this panic us into boxing them in again."

☐ The dangers of dealing with untamed beasts has often been demonstrated (Tim Jones writes). In 1980 Zeya, a tigress at John Aspinall's private zoo near Canterbury, killed two keepers within a month. Zeya had been separated from her cub and jumped an 11ft fence to be reunited.

In 1986, a five-year-old boy fell into the gorilla pit at Jersey wildlife zoo, but he was protected by a giant ape called Jambo. More than three years ago, a toddler had his arm ripped off by a chimp after putting it through the bars of a cage at the Aspinall zoo.

'Cuddly' Arfur the lion draws crowds

ARFUR, the Asiatic lion, became a celebrity yesterday as crowds gathered to catch a glimpse of him at London Zoo (Ray Clancy writes).

He prowled around to the delight of members of the public, many of whom visited specially to see the lion that pounced on Ben Silcock, 27, when he leapt into the compound and tried to feed chickens to the big cats on Thursday.

"Is that the one, is that him, Daddy?" shouted one excited little boy as he pointed towards Arfur padding around the compound. The lion, seemingly oblivious to the extra attention, casually cuffed a lioness around the head as if to remind her that he was boss.

One family brought their video camera. "Isn't he cuddly? It wasn't his fault," said Elizabeth Jones, of Hatfield, Hertfordshire. "I brought the video camera. He looks too lazy and tame today to bother anyone."

A family from Romford, Essex, said they were glad no harm had come to Arfur. "It would have been dreadful if they had put him down. The keepers were really brave to go in and rescue him" said Tracey Williams, who took her sons Jason, 10, and Clive, 12, to see the lion.

Arfur decided he'd had enough adulation just after lunchtime. He turned his back on his public, lay down in the dying winter sunshine, yawned and went to sleep.

Women are breaking into male crime

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE criminal fraternity is now matched by a growing criminal sorority, according to chief constables who are evaluating the results of new computerised fingerprint identification equipment. The findings have led police to believe that far more women could be taking part in crime than they realised.

The automatic fingerprint retrieval system, which is being introduced across Britain, allows police to search large collections of prints, including those of other forces, to identify parts of fingerprints found at the scenes of crime. More crimes are being solved as a result, but at the same time many of the accepted police theories of crime are being overturned.

For decades police have worked on the basis that the vast majority of criminals are male, operate within a narrow radius of their home and specialise in offences such as burglary, armed robbery, drugs or shoplifting. But the experiences of forces already using the new system suggest a far more versatile, adaptable and mobile criminal. Police have also been surprised to discover how many women criminals, with records for shoplifting only, had branched out into other usually male-dominated crimes.

The Strathclyde force was the first to introduce the new system and English chief constables visited the computer unit to test English fingerprints against the Scottish collection. One of the prints was from a sexual assault: the Strathclyde computer came back with the prints of a criminal who was previously known only for burglaries.

Operation of the systems in England has shown female shoplifters diversifying into burglaries. Senior detectives also expect the systems to show criminals making use of the motorway system to commit offences hundreds of miles from their homes.

Within the next two years 37 of the 43 forces in England and Wales will have the computer systems introduced by the police themselves because of delays by the Home Office in producing a system.

Record violence heralds new year

BY KATE ALDERSON

ELEVEN people died in accidents and disturbances on New Year's eve, making it one of the most violent in recent years. Police reported an exceptionally high number of violent incidents throughout the country.

In Bristol, Kathleen Martin, 77, was dancing in the street with other revellers when she was hit and killed by a driver in a van. Shaun Wren, 21, died when a hit-and-run driver ran into him as he walked with a friend on a road near Maldon, Essex.

A young woman died and another was seriously hurt when their car careered out of control and overturned on the M54 at Telford, Shropshire. Paul Scurr, 52, of Ripon, North Yorkshire, died after he fell off the pavement into the path of an oncoming car. A man died at Rackham's wine bar in Plymouth, Devon, after apparently being involved in a disturbance.

In South Wales, Evan Davies, 72, died when struck by a hit-and-run driver as he walked along a road in his home town of Troedyrhiw near Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan. In Belfast, an 83-year-old woman died in a late night accident with a car in Falls Road.

One person died and four were injured in a two-car crash on the A76 Dumfries-Kilmarnock road in Dumfriesshire. In London, police were seeking a driver who rammed his Saab into a BMW in Hackney, northeast London, and sped off, leaving the driver, Tony Sinclair, 34, from Forest Hill, dead and three passengers injured.

Jonathon Jones, 19, an RAF airman, was found dead in the cellar of a wine bar in Ebbw Vale, Gwent. In Berkshire, four revellers were knocked down by a car as they crossed a road in thick fog early on New Year's day.

On New Year's morning, a London woman died and 30 other people were injured in a 44-vehicle pile-up in dense fog on the A2 in Kent.

Disturbances broke out throughout the country and large numbers of police were attacked. In Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, ten arrests were made after a police officer was attacked by a crowd of revellers. A policeman was taken to hospital with a suspected broken cheekbone after a gang of people attacked him in Shirley, Southampton, and police on the Isle of Wight were pelted with bottles in Newport, where a crowd of 200 had gathered.

However, police reported a relatively quiet night in Trafalgar Square, where 80,000 people gathered. Ninety arrests were made, mainly for drunkenness, which compares with 50 last year.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

In no man's land

"As we enter the new year, with the entire cabinet appointed, Bill Clinton is still as balanced and as enigmatic as ever. The appointments he has made give virtually no clue as to the policy



direction of the new administration. Clinton has done what few thought possible: he has remained as undefined in government-in-waiting as he was on the campaign trail..."

Andrew Sullivan, editor of New Republic, on Bill Clinton's cabinet — in The Sunday Times tomorrow

Shoppers sober up to modest price cuts

BY NICHOLAS WATT

NEW year shoppers will find this weekend that the much-heralded supermarket price wars will come nowhere near some of the wilder claims of 50 per cent reductions in their shopping basket bills.

Far from halving bills, Sainsbury has devised a complex price structure that will reduce only a few products by 50 per cent, for a limited period. Tony MacNeary, food retailing analyst at County NatWest, detected gimmickry in Sainsbury's promotion. "Their PR department has certainly been leveraging the publicity," he said.

Sainsbury confirmed yesterday that some press coverage of its price cuts could have been a little over the top. "Bills will not fall by 50 per cent," Jane Marshall, a spokeswoman, said. "We are only reducing prices on 750 out of our 16,000 lines."

Mr MacNeary rejected suggestions that inflated prices throughout the year had enabled Sainsbury and its rivals to cut prices. "Supermarkets in Britain do have larger profit margins than stores in Europe and America but there are good reasons for this," he said. On the Continent, big stores were not so easily located, making it difficult to get large economies of scale, he said, while in America, fierce competition put intense pressure on prices and profit margins.

The Consumers Association welcomed the cuts. Derek Prentice, the association's assistant director, said: "This is what competition is all about. Sainsbury's have emphasised that they are in front and they clearly want to stay in front." Asda, Tesco, Gateway and regional supermarket chains are vowing to meet price cuts with price cuts.

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Accident investigators criticise British Airways manual

Airports to get danger-wind detectors after near tragedy

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH airports are to be fitted with new equipment to detect windshear, the rapidly changing and potentially dangerous surface winds, following a near disaster to a British Airways turbo-prop aircraft with similarities to last month's fatal crash at Faro in Portugal.

The right wing of a BAe ATP with 26 passengers and four crew on board hit the ground as it took off from Sumburgh airport, Shetland in winds gusting to over 70 knots. Only the quick reactions of the pilot saved the aircraft from crashing.

The incident was remarkably similar to the crash of the Martinair DC-10 at Faro on December 21 in which 54 people died and which led to urgent demands for improved procedures to overcome the phenomenon which thought to have hit the DC-10 as it came into land.

In a detailed report into the incident at Sumburgh in December 1991, air accident investigators reveal that the surface wind was so strong that control rods to the right aileron of the ATP had snapped as the aircraft taxied before take-off. The pilot had no way of knowing that his aircraft had been damaged and no guidance in his operations manual to warn him of the dangers of tail or cross-winds during taxiing.

The report, by the Department of Transport's air accident investigation branch says the incident happened in "unusually harsh wind conditions". As the aircraft left the runway it rolled sharply to the right, the wing tip struck the ground and the plane veered towards a nearby high ridge.

As it taxied ready for take-off the wind was blowing from its tail towards the nose with such force that it snapped the aileron controls. The take-off run appeared normal until the aircraft left the ground, when it banked sharply to an angle of 38 degrees and veered to the right to head straight towards a 1,000ft hill two miles ahead as the pilot fought to regain control. Eventually the aircraft made a safe landing at RAF Kinloss.

The report says the pilots had to rely on radio messages about wind speed which is recorded from a single anemometer which did not give an accurate reading close to the runway.

At most British airports there is no windshear forecast or detection system and warnings will be given only if a pilot reports that he has encountered it. The Met Office provides windshear warnings at Heathrow and Belfast only.

Although the BA manual gives limits on cross-winds and tailwinds during landing or take-off, no mention was made of the problem during taxiing, even though gusts of up to 72 knots were being recorded — more than 20 knots stronger than the level at which the manufacturer predicts damage could be caused to the controls.

"The company's operations manual contained no guidance on maximum wind strengths for operating a service," says the report.

Other British operators of the BAe ATP had issued instructions to their flight crew that, for operating a service, a maximum wind speed from any direction was 50 knots and that gusts in excess of that should not have occured during the previous ten minutes.

The investigators criticise British Airways for its "failure to heed the advice contained in the manufacturer's operations manual".

The CAA said last night it would explored what research could be carried out into causes of windshear and that all large airports would be fitted with detection equipment. British Airways said it had amended its manual.



Dangerous recreation: the growing popularity of climbing and hill walking has kept rescue teams busy

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Crowds flock to lethal mountains

BY RAY CLANCY

MOUNTAIN rescue teams are expecting a huge rise in the number of people getting into difficulties this winter because of the increasing popularity of climbing and hill walking.

Warnings have been issued for those venturing into the mountains this weekend and rescue teams expressed concern as ideal conditions pull in the crowds.

There are more people on the Scottish hills than ever before, according to the veteran mountaineer Hamish MacInnes, who leads the Glencoe rescue team. Many, particularly southerners with sedentary occupations, underestimate the scale of the mountains and the weather's ability to change quickly.

Asked what can be done to improve mountain safety, Mr MacInnes said: "Other than reinstating Hadrian's Wall, there is no easy answer. To be fair, it is not just the English who fall off Scottish mountains. I find, however, that the winter hordes of brightly clad enthusiasts from south of the border are guilty of underestimating the scale of the Scottish hills, used as they are to their own Lake District or Welsh peaks."

But in Wales and the Lake District, experienced climbers similarly warned that conditions are too treacherous for the inexperienced because of hard-packed snow and ice patches. In Cumbria, the national park wardens put out a caution for anyone attempting Striding Edge and Swirral Edge on Helvellyn, both popular routes up the mountain. Ice and hard-packed snow made the edges hazardous and above 2,000ft freezing conditions can be expected in both mountain areas.

At the Glenmore Lodge Outdoor Training Centre in the Cairngorms, Andy Anderson, the director, is also concerned about the failure to take weather conditons into account. "The hills look lovely but the wintry disguise can be deadly. Current conditions remind me of February two years ago when we had 11 fatalities in two weeks. I fear that could be repeated unless people using the mountains scale down their activities," he said.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution said 1992 was its busiest year since records began, with 1,300 lives saved and lifeboats called out 4,969 times.

☐ Two climbers were injured yesterday in a rock fall in Dungeon Ghyl in the Langdales, part of the Lake District.

EC reprieves rescue teams

BRITISH mountain rescue teams believe they have forced the European Commission to rethink liability laws that could put rescuers at risk of being sued by the people they rescue (Ronald Faux writes).

According to Stuart Hulse, leader of one of the country's busiest rescue teams in Langdale, Cumbria, the draft legislation framed in Brussels left the volunteer team open to heavy negligence claims: it put the onus on the rescuers to prove their innocence. But after protests, the EC has agreed to look again at the proposals.

☐ Two hurt: Two climbers were injured yesterday by a rock fall at Dungeon Ghyl in the Langdales, in the Lake District.

Record drug seizures herald LSD's return

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LSD, the psychedelic drug that launched a million trips in the 1960s, may be making a comeback, according to drug seizure figures for 1992 being collated by police and customs officials. During the past 12 months police not only seized more of the drug than in recent years, but also discovered the largest single dose seen in Britain.

Widely used in Britain at the end of the 1960s and the early 1970s, LSD largely disappeared, partly because police ended two large domestic production teams with Operation Julie. The drug was also thought to have gone out of fashion as the age group using it got older and younger abusers were more interested in other drugs.

The "acid house" craze of the late 1980s was built on amphetamine-based drugs, although LSD began to reappear. In 1991, 170,000 doses of LSD were seized. The figure for the first six months of last year was 137,000 doses, and police are sure the final 1992 figure will far exceed the 1991 total.

At the same time the potency of LSD doses is rising. An average dose used to be 40 micrograms but dosages of 100 micrograms have been found and police recently discovered one of 300 micrograms.

Drugs intelligence officers believe today's users are in their teens and 20s and may have begun by using drugs such as Ecstasy.

The expected increase in LSD seizures came in a year when cocaine hauls are expected to have reached record heights after two seizures totalling almost two tons.

Seizures of heroin remain stable but an ever-increasing amount of the drug is reaching Britain from the Middle East through the Balkan route and across Europe.

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Computerised libraries will 'deliver' books via phone lines

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A FUTURE Karl Marx would write *Das Kapital* at home with the entire British Library on his desk via a computer screen, academics say.

A quiet global revolution is taking place in the way libraries and publishers operate which means that philosophers, historians, scientists and members of the public may never need physically to visit libraries. Instead, researchers and readers will "visit" libraries across the globe via their living room personal computer receiving manuscripts, journals and books over the international telephone lines.

Tom Stonier, emeritus professor in science and society at Bradford University, who is based at Lenox, Massachusetts, says: "The function of libraries as places you physically visit to access information is going to be superseded. Everybody will have access to a personal computer with communications in 20 years."

The end of the traditional library and the arrival of "libraries without walls" is being made possible by developments in communications, electronic text and optical storage systems and superior database search systems.

Over the past few weeks the British Library in London has put its entire catalogue, covering about four million items dating from the the dawn of printing to the present day, on to computer. People can now have access to the British Library Automated Information Service via terminals.

Another development, which it is hoped will be ready when the new library in St Pancras opens next year, will allow academics to order books on the catalogue via computer. People reading the catalogue may be surprised to learn that the database is operated not from London but from Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, and held on a computer owned by Ranks Hovis McDougall, the food company. The library is expected this month to confirm the trend by publishing a strategic study that will place great emphasis on electronic documents, the magazine *New Scientist* says. "Increasingly, end-users will access library services from their terminals," the report is expected to say.

Meanwhile, in France visitors to the Bibliothèque Nationale by 1995 will have over 300,000 documents complete with drawings, photographs and words available for studying and reading on screens. *Current Clinical Trials*, a medical journal published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, is also highlighting this trend: it is available only electronically.

There are, however, limits to developing electronic libraries. Lynne Brindley, who is based at the British Library of Political and Economic Science in London, believes that issues of copyright and intellectual property need to be resolved. Unlike the printed word, which is immutable, electronically published material can easily be copied, illegally distributed and altered.

Leading article, page 13

PETER WEST



On the wing: a pair of Canada geese flying from a reservoir in Kent, near Sevenoaks. The breed's expansion is causing increased concern

Enquiry ordered into geese

CHRISTMAS has come and gone, but Britain's Canada geese are still getting fat ... so much so that the government is launching an enquiry into how to stop them (Michael McCarthy writes).

Numbers of the large and aggressive birds are increasing alarmingly, as is the damage they cause to parks and lakes, in spite of concerted efforts to keep them down. London's parks, and the royal parks in particular, have been badly hit by the birds' voracious appetite for grass and the resultant avalanche of droppings.

Now the recent prediction from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust that the current national population of 60,000 will double by the end of the decade has prompted a government enquiry, led by the environment department and due to start work later this month, on how to check the species' expansion.

Mass campaigns of shooting would be a hotly disputed recommendation, but the alternative — finding nests and pricking the eggs — has not halted the birds' growth.

Two sides of the Christmas coin

Bishop John Taylor



The journey of the three wise men gives us a way of looking at the Christmas story. Their search for the new-born King, celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6), began with the stars and only later moved on to the pages of Holy Scripture — an intriguing blend of Russell Grant and the prophet Micah which brings a frown to the purist's face. It is a theme which was taken up by many a Christmas preacher in speaking of the God who reveals Himself in other people's language and who does not despise the coinage of whatever market-place is around.

The economy of the high street has come to depend on ever-increasing sales at Christmas. But more commerce has meant ever more expensive presents. Parents who tried to resist this will have found their idealism flagging when their children began to compare notes with their friends. The pious may have urged us to celebrate an austere Christmas, protected from the corrupting taint of the market-place, but it is a tall order for those with expectant children.

This provided a seasonal alternative to the weather as a topic for conversation. During December, amateur forecasters became stern moralists decrying the creeping commercialisation of Christmas. Such fulminations fail to see that what went on in the high street in November and December is the commercial world's way of welcoming the Son of God into the world.

It is not the best way, but maybe it should be given credit for being *their* way. After all, neither office parties nor family reunions are exactly ideal ways of recognising the truth of the Incarnation — but they are the coinage that various groupings recognise and use. What would Jesus have thought about Christmas? He was not against religious festivals: the night before he died he was eating his equivalent of Christmas turkey (the Passover lamb) with his friends, and under other circumstances that would have been a convivial affair. But only a few days earlier in the story is that scene in the Temple where Jesus caused a stir. It is easy to draw the lesson that the grubby world of commerce was being taught to keep out of the higher realm of religion: God and the market do not mix.

But modern scholarship has cast a different light upon Jesus's action. After all, there is no other record of Jesus castigating the commercial world. The gospels are quite clear that the sharpest response to this incident came not from the marketeers but from the religious hierarchy. It is most likely that Jesus's wrath was directed not at unscrupulous commerce but corrupt religion.

So the action of Jesus gives no warrant for religious people to grumble about the commercialisation of Christmas. If anything, the finger of blame should be pointed backwards to the Church. It is not the job of the Church to criticise the way others celebrate the coming of Christ, but it does need to make sure it is keeping its own coinage in good order. The Church should be trading in the currency of worship, holiness and good works. If it dismisses the world as being beyond redemption, it is in danger of failing to offer the world the treasures it has to share.

Having enjoyed the sight of children performing their nativity play in front of adoring parents, and hordes of people who rarely go to church at carol services and midnight mass, I suspect that despite all the commercialism there is quite a bit of honest recognition that what happened on the first Christmas reaches deeper into the human consciousness than many of us realise.

The Right Rev John Taylor is Bishop of St Albans

At your service Weekend section, page 5



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**HEATH SEAL IS A REGISTERED TRADE MARK OF SLUMBERLAND PLC. SLUMBERLAND PATENT REFERS.

As the EC enters an era of new unity, MICHAEL DYNES charts opportunities and pitfalls in the single market

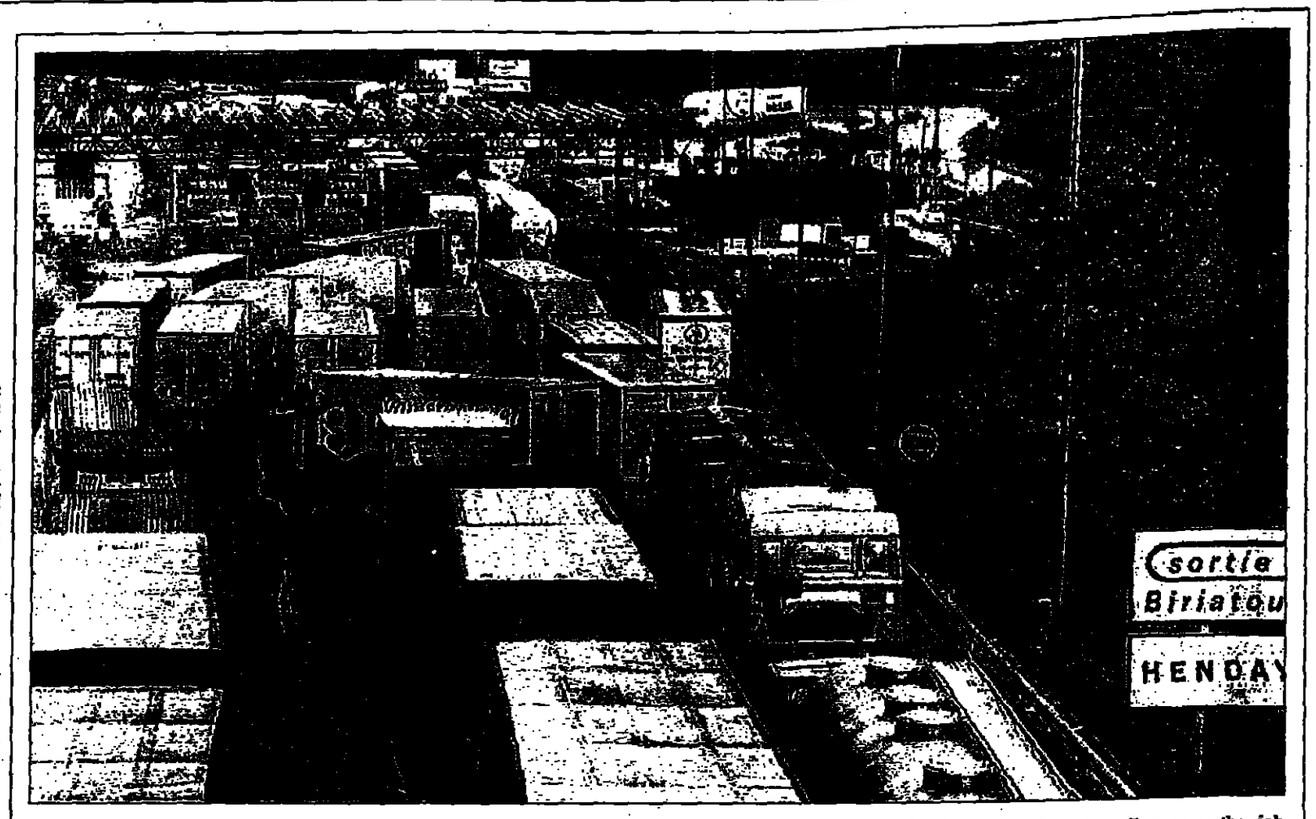
A user's guide to integration in Europe



■ Somewhere between the extremes of the agony and the ecstasy generated by closer ties with the Continent lies the probable attitude of most British people towards European integration: benign but sceptical indifference.

■ The Maastricht treaty may yet prove to represent the high water mark of European co-operation, despite the protestations to the contrary of Jacques Delors (left), the president of the European Commission. As yet it is still too early to be sure. Seasoned EC observers know only too well that such issues, once on the EC agenda, have a habit of reappearing.

■ In the meantime, the inexorable integrationist logic unleashed by the European Commission's drive to abolish internal barriers to trade will continue to have a profound impact on people from all walks of life, from truckers to students, and bankers to business leaders.



Freedom on roads likely to stall

AS THE clock struck midnight on Thursday, expensive and time consuming procedures for checking goods crossing internal frontiers at ports and airports were, at least in theory, abolished.

International trucking companies, from the small family-operated firms to the giant organisations, should be able to move their goods across frontiers without the traditional hassle of queuing for hours to obtain customs clearance.

While motorists have been able to drive across internal frontiers relatively freely for years, truck drivers have been burdened with detailed customs formalities that cost companies hundreds of millions of pounds a year. Their abolition was heralded as one of the main benefits of the single European market. It is becoming increasingly clear, however, that the transition from the old to the new procedures is likely to be little short of chaotic, leading to new traffic jams.

Britain's Freight Transport Association, which represents thousands of trucking firms, is sceptical about the extent to which all 12 countries will be ready. "These changes have required substantial alterations to the way goods are processed," a spokesman said. "Many of the north European countries are likely to be well prepared, but there are serious doubts about some south European countries, particularly Portugal, Italy, and Greece."

Indeed, truckers could face "a paper nightmare" in which a driver leaves Britain expecting the new procedures and arrives at a frontier to discover that the old ones are still in place. Many trucking companies are also bracing themselves for further delays and disruption as customs officials, principally in Spain and Italy, launch strikes over the job losses entailed.

For truckers, the transition to post-1992 is likely to be messy. But even more obstacles lie in wait. EC transport ministers failed to reach agreement on new motorway charges during their last meeting a few weeks ago, but the charges seem destined to be introduced. Germany has been pressing hard for them on the grounds that foreign trucks wear out its roads and make no contribution towards upkeep. The single market, which is supposed to be about eliminating frontier barriers, could thus see a new one erected, with truckers made to prove they have authorisation to use motorways.

Home loans may come from abroad

BANKER'S TALE

BANKS will find it easier to do business in the Community after a series of changes in the way that financial institutions are able to operate across frontiers.

The changes are unlikely to result in the transformation of high streets by the arrival of French, German or Spanish banks in search of British business, according to Paul Tillett, a director of the British Bankers' Association.

However, there could be an increase in the number of loans, mortgages and other financial services obtained from non-British financial institutions in the longer term as increasingly sophisticated customers become accustomed to dealing with an ever-wider range of European financial institutions.

Under the provisions of the so-called second banking directive, any bank authorised in one EC country will be able to open branches in any other without the prior approval from the host state — the Bank of England in the case of Britain.

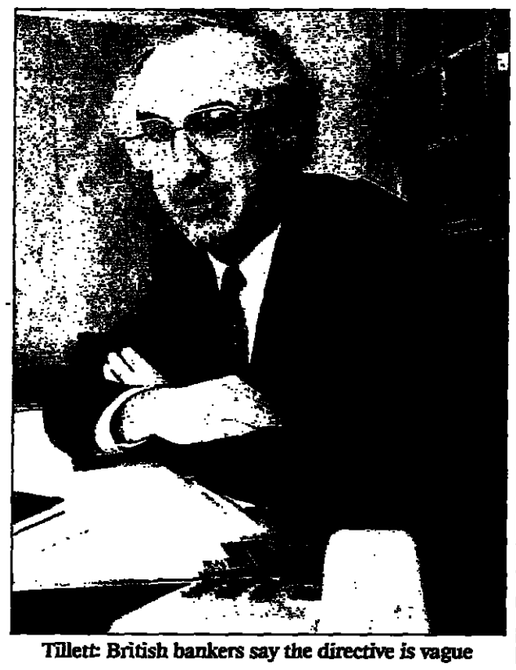
Before setting up shop in another country, banks will be required to notify their own regulatory authorities of their intentions and to provide details of their business plan and the names of the branch managers. Regulation of cross-frontier banking activity will rest almost entirely with the home country.

Although the directive was seen by the Commission as a vital element in the creation of the single market, Mr Tillett says that it is impossible at this early stage to estimate its likely effect. As with many EC directives, the banking directive was vaguely drafted and the Bank of England, the Treasury and the British Bankers' Association are still trying to work out exactly what it means.

It is not yet clear, for example, precisely what the directive means by a business plan. Nor is it evident exactly when a bank trading across frontiers, which decides not to establish a local branch, is required to notify its own regulatory authority of its activities. "There was considerable pressure to reach agreement on this measure," Mr Tillett said, "and it is often easier to reach agreement on a text that is vague rather than precise."

As banks will no longer be authorised by the host state, the home state will be responsible for all aspects of supervision. This is likely to lead to some anomalies, at least in the short-term. In Britain, for example, banks are permitted to trade in stocks and shares, a freedom not enjoyed by all other EC banks. Under the directive, British banks will be able to trade in such securities abroad, even though local banks could be prohibited from doing so.

Like most of the 282 single market measures, the directive is designed to improve banking efficiency across the EC. By encouraging the deregulation and liberalisation of banking and financial services, the Commission hopes to sweep away any remaining bureaucratic and protectionist obstacles to trade, thereby creating a genuine single market for banking in Europe.



Tillett: British bankers say the directive is vague

Harmony of standards is main hurdle

ONE of the central objectives of the single market was to eliminate the formidable obstacles facing manufacturers trying to expand into new EC markets, whether in photocopiers, telephones, pharmaceuticals or prams.

The Commission's 1985 white paper, *Completing The Internal Market*, outlined an ambitious strategy and timetable for merging 12 disparate economies into one. The paper identified three distinct categories of trade barrier, fiscal, physical, and technical, with the plethora of technical standards that had to be met before a product could be sold in another EC country the most important barrier for manufacturing.

From its beginnings in 1957 to the 1970s, the Community was successful in eliminating the tariff barriers that fragmented the European market. But the oil crises, and the resulting combination of inflation and recession brought that success to an abrupt halt.

National governments, including Britain's, began to erect new non-tariff barriers such as divergent product standards to protect their ailing and often antiquated industries from competition. This myopia forced the Commission into the unenviable task of harmonising product standards, a process that was bureaucratic, unpopular, and time-consuming.

But an unexpected decision from the European Court of Justice in the celebrated 1979 Casis de Dijon ruling offered a way out of the impasse. By insisting that a product sold legally in one country can legally be sold in all the others, the court introduced the principle of mutual recognition that was to become one of the cornerstones of the single market.

As no amount of mutual recognition could ever enable a three-pin plug to fit into a two-pin socket, some product standard harmonisation measures cannot be avoided. But they have been kept to the strictly essential and handed over to a series of new industry bodies that have already drawn up new standards for products as varied as gas appliances and medical equipment.

When drawing up its strategy for the single market, Brussels discovered that divergent product standards was viewed as the second most important obstacle after frontier formalities. Divergent product standards cost European businesses billions of pounds a year in duplicated development costs and lost economies of scale. But it could be years, if not decades, before they are eliminated.



Paul Gregory: lost a £750,000-a-year business

Losing battle for fair play

THE attempt to demolish Europe's internal barriers to trade, and in the process create a single market of 340 million producers and consumers, would be an exercise in futility if companies trading across frontiers were able to erect new obstacles to trade by engaging in anti-competitive behaviour.

Consequently, the European Commission has been equipped with an armoury of powers designed to prevent illegal market-sharing arrangements in an effort to extract monopoly profits and prevent new competitors from entering the market.

But as Paul Gregory, 56, head of a small business at Feltham, London, discovered to his cost, any attempt to seek redress for sharp or illegal business practices can lead to a frustrating involvement with a seemingly indifferent bureaucracy in Brussels.

More than four years after lodging a complaint with the European Commission against a Norwegian plastics company for alleged violation of EC competition rules, Mr Gregory is no nearer a ruling on the dispute than he was the day his complaint was filed. Moreover, he has lost a £750,000-a-year business and his warehouse in Teddington and is drawing £20 a week in unemployment benefit.

Mr Gregory's company, Microwave Owenware Limited (MOL), specialised in the distribution of microwave accessories such as bowls and plates at the very moment demand began to boom in Britain. As a long-standing customer of Dynopack, a UK division of Dyno Industrier of Norway, MOL had secured contracts to supply various microwave oven manufacturers, including Philips, Thorn, Toshiba and NEF.

In the early 1980s, however, Thorpac, another microwave accessories distributor, was granted sole marketing and distribution rights for the UK retail, wholesale, mail order, and cash and carry markets, effectively squeezing MOL out of business. In September 1988, Mr Gregory sought redress under the competition provisions of the Treaty of Rome on the grounds that Dyno Industrier, Dynopack and Thorpac were conspiring to eliminate MOL from the market.

Mr Gregory claims the Commission has failed to investigate his complaint. But Commission officials say that Mr Gregory has failed to provide sufficient evidence that the rules were broken. Mr Gregory disputes this, saying Brussels has been supplied with the requisite business documents, along with the name of a Dynopack employee who is prepared to testify that MOL was targeted and driven out of business.

Despite the Commission's commitment towards fostering the interests of Europe's small businessmen, Mr Gregory appears to be lost in a bureaucratic no man's land.

He is not the only one. Violations of the competition rules are monitored by a team of 50 or so officials. They have the impossible task of overseeing business practices in the entire Community.

Job mobility slowly becoming a reality

FREEDOM of movement and employment within the EC has been guaranteed for more than three decades under the Treaty of Rome, but it was only comparatively recently that it became more real than apparent.

A complex web of national regulations governing access to professions and skills, from plumbing and carpentry to medicine and law, proved virtually impenetrable for non-citizens unless they were prepared to take their profesional or vocational examinations all over again.

Having qualified in a given field in one country, the ability to work or practise in another was often barred because of national differences in training periods and qualifications or because member states refused to recognise equivalent qualifications. Before the launch of the single market programme, Brussels had sought to eliminate national differences in professional qualifications case by case. That had led to a series of so-called sectoral directives harmonising qualifications for, among others, architects (1985) and GPs (1986). Indeed, the GPs directive was seen as the dawning of the age of the Euro-doctor. Alas, the European Commission estimated that of the 600,000 qualified general practitioners in the Community, fewer than 2,000 had availed themselves of the right to work abroad. Language, as in so many other areas, remains the single greatest obstacle.

In an effort to speed the process of eliminating national differences, the case-by-case approach was abandoned in favour of the principle of mutual recognition of professional qualifications. A 1990 directive embraces all areas of professional endeavour not already covered by EC law.

The mutual recognition directive allows national governments to decide whether to require non-citizen professionals to undergo a period of probation or submit to an aptitude test before practising in a country other than the one in which they qualified. As a result, in general, a person qualified to work in one country is now qualified to work in all others as well.

Languages will translate into top careers

ALTHOUGH the promotion of education *sans frontières* was excluded from the single market programme by governments eager to prevent the European Commission's influence from expanding into new areas, it has become an essential component of European co-operation.

A rapid increase in student exchange schemes and joint action between universities can be expected to give rise to a new generation of politicians, business executives and professionals whose world view will be less influenced by national boundaries than that of their predecessors.

Alex Parsons, 19, who has just started a four-year MA course in Spanish and business studies at Edinburgh University, is confident that his future lies beyond the shores of Britain, probably with a multi-national corporation with expanding interests in Spain. After taking Spanish at A level, Alex spent a year before university working at a Thomas Cook office in Madrid, an experience that convinced him that his future lay in languages.

During his third year at Edinburgh, Alex expects to benefit from the EC-inspired Erasmus student exchange to study at Bilbao, Valladolid or Salamanca universities. Erasmus, with a budget of £135 million for 1990-3, is the biggest EC educational programme and growing fast.

Companies who are tailoring their recruitment policies to meet the demands of the single market are likely to snap up graduates like Alex. It is the linguists who will manage European industry and commerce in the 1990s and beyond. As competition between European companies, and with US and Japanese ones operating inside the EC, intensifies, linguists are likely to become an increasingly scarce resource, commanding ever-increasing salaries.

British students appear to be on course for letting their continental counterparts meet most of the anticipated growing demand. Critics of the education system warn that many of our schools and colleges are not ready to cope with the linguistic challenge of the single market.



Parsons: Madrid job

Saving lives with salt and sugar

THIS CHRISTMAS, Save the Children is seeking to dramatically reduce the number of young lives lost from acute diarrhoea.

Over 13,000 children die from the disease every day, mainly in developing countries such as Somalia, Malawi and Liberia.

Yet according to Nicholas Hinton, the charity's Director General, many of these lives could be saved for as little as 10 pence, the cost of a sachet of Oral Rehydration Salts.

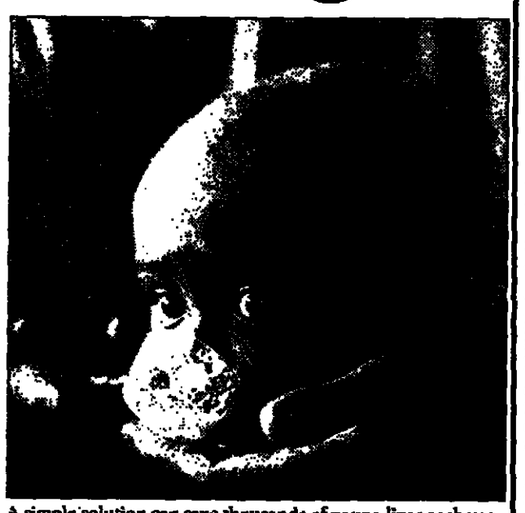
The salts, a simple mixture of sodium and sugar, prevent children from dehydrating, the most common cause of death from acute diarrhoea. Over the past few years, Save the Children has proved the effectiveness of these salts, helping to save thousands of lives.

However, Hinton says, "Although the sachets cost just 10 pence each, there is a significant cost involved distributing them and training health workers to administer the salts correctly."

Save the Children's appeal aims to raise funds to buy more Oral Rehydration Salts and other vital healthcare resources and send them to children most in need.

Hinton adds, "Just £10 can help save the lives of 100 children. What better gift could you give a child this Christmas than the gift of life?"

If you would like to make a donation to help Save the Children with their work, please complete and return the coupon below to: Dept. 3010701, Save the Children, FREEPOST, London SE5 8BR.



A simple solution can save thousands of young lives each year. Photo by MIKE WELLS

Yes, I want to give the gift of life this Christmas

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Prague hopes for prosperity and pluralism in Slovakia

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN PRAGUE

As Prague wakes up quietly to a new era, the Czech prime minister is offering goodwill to Slovakia and says there is no need for a wall between the two republics

VACLAV Klaus, prime minister of the new-born Czech Republic, insisted yesterday that his government would do all it could to ensure that relations with Slovakia were smooth and devoid of conflict.

"Slovakian economic prosperity and political plurality must be our overriding political interest," he told a special assembly of the Czech parliament. "In this we are not motivated by any noble generosity but by practical, utilitarian reason and interest."

In the absence of a Czech president, Mr Klaus delivered his government's new year address to deputies meeting in Prague castle. Later, with full pomp and ceremony, he joined the speaker of parliament and foreign minister in receiving foreign ambassadors.

In a somewhat defensive tone that betrayed continuing sensitivity here to accusations that the Czechs deliberately made little effort to accommodate the Slovaks, Mr Klaus said Czecho-Slovak co-existence in a single federation was no longer possible after the June elections. Rather than suffer a painful disintegration, his government had pushed for a slow separation that would mitigate the accumulated problems and leave the door open to future co-operation.

"We had to prove that even a painful operation such as the division of a state, which was dear particularly to us Czechs, can be executed in a civilised, cultured manner and that it does not have to result in the construction of a Chinese wall stretching from Jablunkov to Breclav."

He said the recent passage of a new constitution, agreed by all parties, was a hopeful sign that the Czech Republic would emerge from its initial difficult period "with minimum scratches and scars". It would vigorously uphold all democratic values and human rights and strive to improve relations with its neighbours, above all Slovakia.

Mr Klaus hailed the spiritual renewal of Czech society, the return to the roots of its national existence and European traditions and in particular its Christian heritage. That heritage was underlined yesterday by the city's archbishop at a new year service in the great cathedral beside the castle. In the evening, Czechs also celebrated their musical history in a gala concert of works by Smetana.

The first day of the new republic began quietly. As the crisp morning brought out the crowds in their furs and anoraks, the city's sweepers were hard at work clearing a carpet of broken champagne bottles, spent fireworks and streamers that covered Wenceslas Square and the nearby cobbled streets.

Crowds gathered in front of the memorial to Jan Palach, the student who set himself alight in protest at the crushing of the Prague Spring in 1968. The spot has become the official memorial to the victims of communism, and is piled with flowers and candles.

The memory of the Russian occupation is fading fast. Russian army hats, Lenin banners, painted Russian dolls and communist lapel badges are on sale everywhere, worthless symbols of a fallen empire. They are snapped up by German and American tourists.

The mood in Prague yesterday was calm, little different from most new year's days, observers said. The significance of their country's break-up will sink in later when the new customs posts start to operate and Slovakia begins to assert its own identity.

DAVID BRAUCHLI/ASSOCIATED PRESS



Affairs of state: Slovak soldiers saluting their nation's flag as Slovakia set off hastily yesterday on its new, independent path with an attempt to show the West it had learned the lessons of the past (Gerard Davies writes). The prime minister, Vladimir Meciar, told MPs on what he referred to as "the first day at school", that it was now up to the country to prove itself abroad. He emphasised that there would be hard work ahead. Parliament met for the first time since the dissolution of the Czechoslovak federation on New Year's Eve to define its goals. The new Bratislava diplomatic corps is to meet government officials today.



Ukraine old guard takes unorthodox road to capitalism

Anne Applebaum, the 1992 winner of The Times' Charles Douglas-Home Award, visits a Ukrainian electronics factory that is being privatised with money from the state

In 1839, a French visitor toSt Petersburg marvelled at the "revolting dirtiness" of his vermin-filled bedroom, which was hidden behind a façade of "almost fabulous magnificence". It was odd, he wrote: the buildings of the city seemed classical and European, yet they masked a culture that was neither. In later years, the Soviet Union kept up this tradition, using European words such as "democracy" to mean the opposite.

Despite the death of the Soviet Union, the habit lingers on, and nowhere more so than in Ukraine. Freed from the tedium of May Day parades, the new industrialists of Ukraine speak like Westerners. They talk of capitalism and markets but while some of the change is real, words that seem familiar may suddenly appear to mean something quite different.

Take "privatisation", an important word in Ukraine: officials talk about it, politicians say they favour it, foreign advisers try to promote it. But when asked for concrete examples of large, privatised companies, none comes to mind. Elektron, a Ukrainian company based in Lvov, was said to be the most important exception. I went to see it.

Elektron's grey head office looked much like any other Soviet *institution*. Orest Yaremchuk, the company president's assistant, had been to the West. He said Elektron was deeply engaged in what he called "an attempt to achieve new market relations within the old Soviet economic system".

It is a paradox, the first of many surrounding Elektron, a company which produces hundreds of thousands of television sets, along with coffee grinders, hairdriers and electronic components for the army. Elektron flourished for years without having to try very hard. As long as it operated in a society starved of consumer goods, there was no need for marketing, innovation or quality control. But Elektron's directors anticipated change in 1990, and plotted their new careers.

All but the stupidest saw that market reforms would bring the reign of the *nomenklatura* to an end. Some formed pressure groups to fight change, others took whatever they could steal and set up private businesses on the side. Elektron's managers took a different, more modern route. If the prestige and privilege which state company directors had enjoyed in the past was now to go to private capitalists, then why not privatise Elektron?

There were many difficulties: Elektron had to convince Moscow and Kiev, make audits, and persuade its workers of the advantages of share ownership. But in the end, they did it: factory workers and managers bought stock worth 25 million roubles, 4 per cent of the company.

The value of the company, and the cost of the shares, was derived not by consulting accountants, but by subtracting estimated depreciation from the original cost of building Elektron's myriad plants. With no allowance made for inflation, the total, according to Mr Yaremchuk, came to 700 million roubles—about $17.5 million at the exchange rates of the time—not much for a company which exported 300,000 television sets last year.

Now the company directors are buying up the rest of the shares at current rates. At 500 roubles to the dollar, the price is $1.4 million. In other words, Elektron, a state company, is buying itself from the state, using the state's money.

The process is almost complete. Elektron already calls itself a joint stock company. Its directors, all shareholders, already behave like owners in some ways. Although production is down, they have begun distributing dividends.

Elektron still enjoys the same privileged access to raw materials as any state enterprise. For a newly privatised company, surprisingly little has changed on the shop floor. "The same people are in charge," complained an official in one of Elektron's television factories. "They do things in the same way."

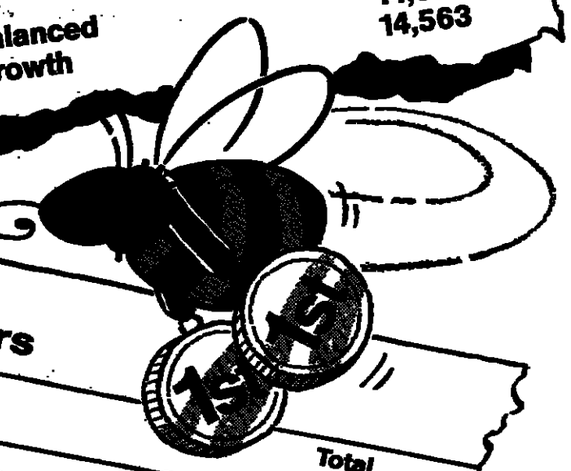
If Elektron's directors, who already think of themselves as capitalists, do begin to act like capitalists, then the means that they used to get there will matter less. If they begin to feel pressure to produce profits, then the factory will benefit. "At least they are trying to do something," shrugs a local businessman. "Better phoney privatisation than slow deterioration."

Anne Applebaum will be joining The Spectator *shortly as its foreign editor*

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It took John Fisher minutes to connect his computer to his printer.

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② I opened the "Main" icon.
③ I opened the "Control Panel".
④ I double-clicked on the printer's icon in the Control Panel.
⑤ I clicked on "Add >>".
⑥ I saw the list of "Printer Drivers...."
⑦ I saw my printer listed and then selected the "non-Postscript" version.
⑧ I clicked on "Install" and then I got another dialogue box that asked me to
⑨ Insert the Software Operating System disk where the driver is found.
⑩ The printer was now installed on the default port LPT1.
⑪ Then I printed.





It was really easy John Fisher

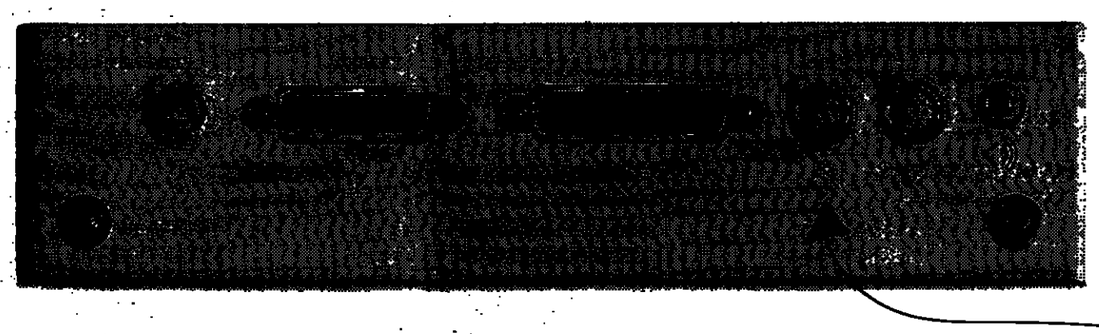
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Abrasive UN secretary-general attempts charm offensive



Boutros Ghali: taken an aggressive stance

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

■ Boutros Boutros Ghali has offended just about everyone in his efforts to enlarge the UN's role. He is still looking for the significant victory that has so far eluded him

WHEN Boutros Boutros Ghali assumed office as United Nations secretary-general exactly a year ago, a senior American official expressed the fear that he might prove to be a "warmed-over Pérez de Cuéllar".

The veteran Egyptian diplomat has proved quite the contrary, adopting an aggressive style in his handling of the organisation's 179 member countries and its 10,000 staff that would make his gentlemanly Peruvian predecessor quake in his boots. Dr Boutros Ghali has offended just about everybody, in itself a mark of some distinction in the normally polite world of diplomacy.

Britain and other European countries objected to his resistance to a greater UN role in what he called "the rich man's war" in the former Yugoslavia. The United States now finds itself in a row with him over disarming bandits and guerrillas in Somalia. Even African nations, who lobbied so hard for the first African to win the top UN job, have found him patronising at times.

The UN staff has been stunned by his secretive approach and determined restructuring of the top-heavy organisation. Dr Boutros Ghali has recently gone on something of a charm offensive, admitting to ambassadors that he wants to improve communications and becoming more open to the press. Conscious that his public image is in need of a polish, he announced trips to UN peacekeeping troops in Sarajevo and Mogadishu after avoiding both nations for months, even though he was personally involved in peace negotiations.

Although his style is evolving, diplomats complain that his first year has been marked too often by an attitude of "can't do". He has repeatedly rejected proposals for tougher UN action in Bosnia, only this week asking the security council to delay enforcement of the no-fly zone.

His objections to a plan last summer for the UN to monitor heavy weapons in Bosnia was so strenuous that Lord Carrington, the European Community mediator, was forced to resign. In Somalia, he is in danger of saying no to his own proposal for a UN-commanded enforcement operation, which Washington has asked to replace the US-led multinational force. The secretary-general explains that the UN faces a "crisis of too much credibility" in the new world order, effectively becoming the world's policeman in the eyes of many around the globe.

So far, a significant victory has eluded Dr Boutros Ghali. The UN operation to bring peace and democracy to Cambodia has run into trouble with the Khmer Rouge; his attempts to negotiate the reunification of Cyprus have stalled: Angola's UN monitored peace accord fell apart and UN troops in the former Yugoslavia face continued turmoil. But nine months after he negotiated an almost forgotten "ceasefire" in Somalia with representatives of the warring clans, the American-led relief effort has given him a major fillip.

Probably his most important contribution in his first year has been his "Agenda for Peace" - an ambitious blueprint for the UN's future which called for a greater UN role in preventive diplomacy and peace enforcement. He proposed the first ever "preventive deployment" of UN troops when he recommended last month that 700 peacekeepers be sent to Macédonia. As a result, UN peacekeeping operations continue to expand, with about 60,000 men now stationed around the world and an annual budget reaching almost $3 billion (£1.9 billion).

He has been dogged by staff discontent. Giandomenico Picco, the hostage negotiator, and Mohammed Sahnoun, the Somalia envoy, resigned because of differences with the UN chief. Staff have reacted badly to his management style and his plan to reshape the entrenched UN bureaucracy. In the corridors, Dr Boutros Ghali is known to his staff as "the invisible man" and "the little pharaoh".

Opposition accused by Moi of pushing Kenya into civil war

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya yesterday accused the opposition of pushing the country towards civil war and called on the people to rally behind his leadership. He condemned an opposition refusal to accept election results, in which he took an unassailable lead in the presidential race.

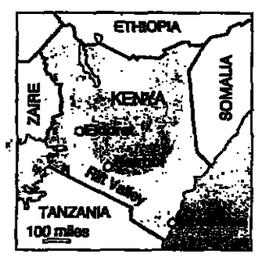
Responding to the decision of three opposition parties not to accept the result, Mr Moi said: "I have said many times ... they are pushing the country towards civil war." He added: "If they wanted a multiparty system, they should have been the first to accept this result."

Although he is certain to win the presidency, in Kenya's first multiparty elections for 26 years, his Kenya African National Union (Kanu) looked like losing its overall majority in parliament, despite alleged ballot-rigging. Constitutional lawyers said that Mr Moi needed two-thirds of the 200-seat house in order to push his policies through parliament.

Mr Moi increased his overall lead in the presidential poll over Kenneth Matiba, the latest count showing him with 1,763,226 votes and Mr Matiba with 1,242,705. Kanu had won 77 parliamentary seats, but needs 95 of the 188 contested seats for a simple majority.

The three main opposition parties yesterday rejected the results and alleged that Mr Moi had rigged the result and bribed some of their candidates to switch allegiances to him. Although the parties were successful in dislodging 15 Kanu cabinet ministers as results continued to come in, yesterday they said in a joint statement that they would try to bring the regime to a standstill unless Mr Moi ordered new elections. "The opposition parties will work together to initiate the necessary framework and modalities to prevent Daniel arap Moi from assuming office as a result of those fraudulent elections," the statement said.

The move came shortly before a Commonwealth observers' group said the elections could not be pronounced free and fair because of problems over the registration of voters; faults with the nomination of candidates, which allowed 16 Kanu MPs to be elected unopposed; violence and intimidation during the campaign; partisanship of the state-owned media; and the reluctance of the government to sever its ties with Kanu.



The Commonwealth observers said that "results in many instances directly reflect, however imperfectly, the expression of the will of the people". They were not prepared to say the elections had been fair, but rather that the process "constitutes a giant step on the road to multiparty democracy".

Because the opposition parties fought separate campaigns, they allowed Mr Moi's party to inch ahead in the race for the 188 seats in parliament. Twelve are nominated by the president.

The withdrawal from the electoral process of the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (Ford)-Kenya, led by Oginga Odinga, Ford-Asili, led by Mr Matiba, and the Democratic party, led by Mwai Kibaki, marks the beginning of what many observers fear could be a civil disobedience campaign that degenerates into violence.

Four people were killed yesterday in the western city of Eldoret allegedly by members of Mr Moi's minority Kalenjin tribe who were "hunting" for Kikuyu people whom they suspected of having voted against the incumbent. The Kalenjin have been blamed for sparking much of the tribal violence in the Rift Valley which left at least 1,000 dead last year.

Last night a diplomat said: "There is a good chance of violence now. Clearly, given the wide tribal base of the three parties, there will be singling out of Moi's people by their people, and vice versa."

Originally a pro-democracy pressure group, Ford split along tribal lines well ahead of the elections. This, combined with the independence of the Democratic party, left the field clear for a Moi victory.

BOBBY YIP/REUTER



Crush victim: a man carrying an injured woman to an ambulance as new year celebrations in Hong Kong left 20 people dead when thousands of revellers stampeded in the narrow cobbled streets of the Lan Kwai Fong entertainment district. Chris Patten, the colony's governor, yesterday ordered an immediate judicial enquiry (James Pringle writes). The dead included Michael Frith, 15, a Briton, the son of Chief Supt Gerald Frith, now serving with the Hong Kong police and formerly an officer in South Africa. A number of expatriate Britons were also thought to have been injured. Among the fatalities was Jody Fullerton, 18, a Canadian. Of the other 18 dead, 17 were Chinese and one Japanese.

Gaddafi blames West for crash

Nicosia: Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, accused the West of causing the crash of the Libyan Arab Airlines plane in which 150 people were killed on December 22. He said on Libyan television that there were only three possible causes, and in each the West was to blame.

Either Western intelligence services sabotaged the plane "in reply to Lockerbie", the IRA arranged the crash to punish Libya for abandoning it, or the cause could have been the result of a shortage of spare parts, he said. Britain and America have accused three Libyans of blowing up Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in December 1988. The West persuaded the UN to impose sanctions, including a ban on plane spare parts, last April as Tripoli refused to hand over the suspects. *(Reuter)*

Plea to Peking

Taipei: President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan urged Peking to "heal the wounds of history" by working for a reunified, democratic China. He asked it to put the future of China and the well-being of the Chinese people first. *(Reuter)*

Malawi choice

Harare: President Banda of Malawi said a referendum on whether to end nearly three decades of one-party rule was planned for March 15, the Malawi News Agency reported. Democracy activists and government opponents will be allowed to campaign. *(AP)*

Birth rate slows

Tokyo: Japan's rates of birth and population growth last year were the lowest since the second world war, according to government figures. The population is expected to have grown by 359,000. *(Reuter)*

Hindu reprieve

Ayodhya: The Uttar Pradesh state high court reversed a government ban, allowing Hindus to pray at a "reasonable distance" from a makeshift temple built on the rubble of the Babri mosque destroyed by Hindu zealots. *(AFP)*

Sentences cut

Rangoon: Burma's military junta said it was reducing sentences of prisoners convicted since troops crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988. Death sentences are cut to life imprisonment, and life terms to ten years. *(AP)*

Four beheaded

Dhahran: Authorities in Saudi Arabia beheaded four men, including two Pakistani drug traffickers and a Yemeni found guilty of sexually abusing children. A Saudi was executed for murder. *(Reuter)*

Security steps

Hanoi: Ten thousand police and security guards will line the route of the Vietnam marathon tomorrow to ensure that Hanoi's first important international sporting event goes smoothly. About 150 runners have registered, half of them foreigners. *(AFP)*

CRUFTS 1993



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Azanian army vows year of vengeance

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

FIVE men were shot dead on the streets of a black township outside Johannesburg yesterday, providing an ominous beginning to the new year in South Africa. At the same time, the Azanian People's Liberation Army, currently the most militant armed group, announced that 1993 would be "The Year of the Great Storm", in which the black population would confront reactionary violence with revolutionary violence.

In another new year message, Jacob "Jaap" Marais, the leader of the extreme right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party, a breakaway from the ruling National party, declared that this year would see the call for a *Blanke Volksfront* ("White National Front") grow even stronger with the aim of stopping the government from selling whites out to communist-controlled black rule.

Also threatening the prospects of a peaceful transition to a democratic form of government, the right-wing Conservative party, another hardline breakaway from the National party, has announced that it intends to start weapons training and "anti-terrorist education camps" for its members. The idea of the training sessions is to stiffen resistance to the present campaign by the Azanian People's Liberation Army of random attacks on whites in the Eastern Cape and Orange Free State.

The five who died in the new year shootings were victims of what police described as "motiveless" attacks in two streets of Thokoza, the black township outside Alberton on the East Rand. A sixth man, whose identity is being kept secret, was wounded and is presently under guard in Natalspruit hospital.

The message from the Azanian People's Liberation Army was faxed from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania under the name of Sabelo Victor Phama, said to be its commander and chairman of its high command. He said the group's "theatre of war" was expanding daily and was covering both urban and rural areas in South Africa. "For a long time they [the black population] have consistently been on the receiving end," the message said. "Now they are reversing the situation and time has come for the Pretoria regime to bury its own dead."

Red Cross blocked by Israel

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI leaders said yesterday that they would not allow Red Cross relief to reach 415 deported Palestinians in Lebanon unless Beirut permitted "reciprocal" assistance.

The move stopped short of an official rebuff to a Red Cross plan to send a team through Israeli-controlled territory to assess the needs of the deportees in their camp at Marj az-Zahour and report back to Israel and Lebanon.

The Israeli government told the supreme court yesterday that there was no legal basis for overriding last week's cabinet decision against unilateral aid to the deportees. Israel will not formally respond to the Red Cross until the court gives a ruling. In the Gaza Strip, six Palestinians were hurt in clashes on the 27th anniversary of the founding of Fatah, the main Palestine Liberation Organisation faction.

Bullish blue berets seek to tame Pol Pot

BY JAMES PRINGLE, SOUTHEAST ASIA CORRESPONDENT

UNITED Nations-sponsored trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge started yesterday, 24 hours after its guerrillas had launched their most serious attack yet on a UN position, forcing the evacuation of 45 blue berets.

The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) seems in a bullish mood and, rather than see its peacekeeping operation fall apart, looks set to call the Khmer Rouge's bluff, as some UN military chiefs have long privately recommended.

In the short term, the sanctions are likely to have little bite while Thailand objects to UN personnel setting up monitoring posts along the border to stop the export from Cambodia of timber and the import of petrol to fuel the guerrillas' war machine. Instead, the Thais say they will set up their own border security unit. But Thai military commanders, working with Thai businessmen, have been behind border trade which has swollen Khmer Rouge coffers. One diplomat said: "Having the Thai army monitoring the border is like using a mouse to guard the cheese."

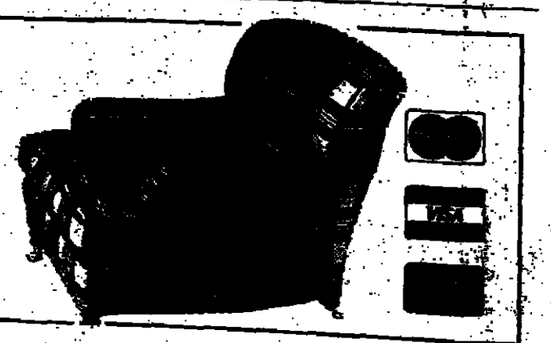
The transitional authority says it will mount helicopter surveillance of border crossings into Khmer Rouge territory, despite the risk of ground fire. Eric Falt, a UN spokesman in Phnom Penh, said the blue berets would return to the evacuated camp at Svay Leu, in the northwest, as soon as possible. He said the past week of Khmer Rouge shelling of the area was "probably caused by Untac's resolve to enter contested areas of the country to register voters for the elections". He said such intentions certainly annoyed the Khmer Rouge. "but we are going to keep on doing it".

United Nations military chiefs believe that the Khmer Rouge, in shelling the UN, is acting out of weakness rather than strength. Guerrilla chieftains such as Pol Pot are rattled at the UN's success in registering voters. The rebels' exit from the peace process they signed seems to indicate that Pol Pot feels Khmer Rouge would make little headway in the elections in May.

"The UN is beginning to challenge the Khmer Rouge," said one diplomat. "Its bluff is being called. We must see who blinks first, the UN or the Khmer Rouge."

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Geneva negotiators press on in hope of peace on paper

The brokers around the table are sticking to the fiction that a group of reasonable men can reach a reasonable Balkans settlement

BY ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

UN PEACE talks on Bosnia resume today in Geneva with a big dose of new year optimism but only a slim chance that anything will be achieved.

While Western leaders talk of military action and the security council prepares a resolution to enforce a "no-fly" zone, the Geneva peace brokers are sticking to the fiction that a group of reasonable men can reach a reasonable settlement in the Balkans. Cyrus Vance, the co-chairman with Lord Owen of the Geneva conference, said before the session: "For the first time, we will have sitting around the same table all the elements required for any solution. That's the reason for hope."

He might have added that there is also external pressure on the negotiators. The Islamic states have threatened to supply guns to the Bosnian Muslims if the fighting cannot be stopped by January 15. And as Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, found in Sarajevo on Thursday the prestige of the UN as a peace broker is fading fast. A desperate crowd demanded of him: "What is the UN doing for us?"



Vance: sees reasons for Geneva optimism

The answer is contained in a piece of paper lying on the table in Geneva today. It is a draft constitutional plan which is the only document to acknowledge that Bosnian territorial integrity has to be preserved. One listens in vain for other Western politicians to make such a public pledge.

The UN plan formally rejects the cantonisation of Bosnia between Serbs and Croats. It proposes instead that Bosnia should become a republic of about ten provinces each with a wide degree of autonomy in education, the police, judiciary and local government. Each region would have democratic structures and would guarantee civil rights. In the long term such a structure would make it possible to reverse "ethnic cleansing" and allow people to return home.

The draft is designed to be vague enough for each warlord to sell it to his constituency. The Serbs, for example, would be assured of the safety and local autonomy of Bosnian Serbs and there is nothing to prevent them from calling their region the "Serb Republic of Bosnia".

The Bosnian Muslims will hang on to their state within the old frontiers, a necessary pretence. The Muslims' priority is to remain viable as a state until eventual changes in the Belgrade leadership allow them to negotiate for more. The Croats will be able, in a different form, to keep those parts of western Herzegovina that they have seized in the past eight months.

That is the theory. But the reality is far more complex. The Bosnian Serbs are, for example, prepared to stop fighting and will probably say so in Geneva. Yet this is merely a tactical move. Since the Muslims are supposed to be preparing for a counter-offensive they can soon be depicted as the aggressor by Belgrade. That will serve more than propaganda purposes; it will also dash attempts to ease the UN arms embargo.

Beyond these tactical ploys, the Serbs are not willing to go much further with the UN plan. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, wants a special kind of peace in Bosnia — "a carve-up of the country between Belgrade and Zagreb. The ultra-nationalists in the Belgrade parliament, who have become much stronger since the elections on December 20, want to go further still and fight for future Serbian outlets to the sea.

Mr Milosevic and the ultra-nationalists agree they should be guided by the idea of a Greater Serbia and not by UN concepts of Bosnian sovereignty. They may eventually sign a piece of paper in Geneva but the lesson of the past 18 months is that they will think nothing of tearing it up later. The best hope for the Bosnian Muslims at the moment is to agree to the UN plan and seek some closer form of co-operation with the Croats. But the gulf of distrust between Zagreb and Sarajevo is wider than ever.

The propaganda line from Croatia is still that the Bosnian leadership wants to make a fundamentalist Islamic state out of Bosnia. The Muslims, for their part, believe that President Tudjman of Croatia is under the sway of radical nationalists who believe that almost all of Bosnia belongs historically to Croatia.

☐ **Jedda:** The Islamic Conference Organisation is to hold a mini-summit in Dakar, Senegal, on Janaury 11 to discuss the Bosnian conflict. *(AP)*

Clinton plans, page 1

London delivers Kosovo baby

BY JULIA HARTLEY-BREWER

HAVA Ibishi, an Albanian refugee from the Serbian province of Kosovo, celebrated the new year by giving birth to her sixth child, a baby girl weighing 8lb 15oz, at West Middlesex Hospital in Isleworth, west London.

Mrs Ibishi and her family escaped from Kosovo in September to join her husband and are now living in Teddington, with help from the Red Cross and the refugee aid committee at the American International University in London. Although Mrs Ibishi speaks no English, the language barrier was not a problem, according to Sister Rose Chong, who was at the birth. "It's amazing what you can do with sign language," she said.

Quazim Ibishi said he and his wife had not decided what to call their daughter but it was unlikely to be an English name. He said that he wanted to return to Kosovo, where he worked as a land surveyor, but thought England was "very good".

He thanked the hospital staff and said the midwives had been "wonderful" to his wife.

The other Ibishi children, three girls and two boys, aged ten, nine, seven, five and eleven months, were delighted with their sister when they visited the busy hospital ward, where night nursing staff had seen six deliveries yesterday.

STEPHEN MARKESON



Safe haven: Hava Ibish, with baby in the West Middlesex hospital yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope calls for an end to conflict

Rome: Pope John Paul celebrated World Peace Day yesterday with special prayers for a solution to the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

At a mass in St Peter's Basilica, he said: "The threat of nuclear destruction may have receded but the blessings of peace have not yet established themselves everywhere. Sadly, on our continent and especially in the Balkan region, the spread of destructive war has not subsided. *(Reuter)*

Start stop

Moscow: President Bush will spend less than 24 hours in Moscow when he arrives to sign the landmark Start 2 treaty on nuclear arms reduction today with President Yeltsin, American embassy officials said. *(Reuter)*

Swiss role

Geneva: Adolf Ogi, the Swiss president, said in a televised address that his country must aim to draw closer to the rest of Europe despite its rejection of the European Economic Area in a referendum. *(Reuter)*

Jews targeted

Paris: Firebombs were thrown into a synagogue at Villepinte, a Paris suburb. The city of Strasbourg is increasing patrols around Jewish sites after anti-Semitic attacks this week. *(AP)*

Children of siege find joy in study

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

CLASSES started at the Ciglane war school in Sarajevo last week. In an old kindergarten on the ground floor of a block of middle-class flats, 200 children each attend for a half-hour a day.

Many of the children had been attending classes in flats since November, but now the neighbourhood school has started work again. Children in Sarajevo had not attended school since the siege began last spring.

"I'm sort of happy to come here, but it's cold," said Boris, 14, the star English student in a class of 12. He shuffles his feet and buries his hands deep inside a slightly oversized jacket. The temperature is near freezing; the children all keep their coats on, and the teachers wear gloves.

A small boy across the small book-covered table from Boris quips: "If we went to Siberia we would get heat shock." His classmates laugh.

In this particular class there are more Serbs and Croats than Muslims, though they all say they are Bosnian. Lana, 14, is glad to see her friends again. "A lot of my friends are here who I haven't seen since April," Lana said. She was very worried about some of them. Luckily only one was hurt. "Part of a shell went in her leg, but now she is all right," Lana said.

Explaining war-time schooling, Nermin Hrnjica, the English teacher, says: "Our task is only to bring the children together and to show them that they are not alone. It is getting together and trying to learn something that is important."

Dzemila Fetic, the school's director, who ran a Sarajevo school before the Bosnian war, said: "The basic aim is to help the children forget about the war. It is not easy. The children know too much about the war. We are trying to provide them with the joy of learning and make them forget the war." The therapy appears to be working. Many children who used to have nightmares every night are sleeping more peacefully since they started attending classes in November.

In class, the teachers do not talk about the war directly, but about making the hardships of daily life bearable, such as how best to keep warm when there is no heating. Because of a lack of space, children spend only 30 minutes in school a day and most of the learning is left to homework.

All the school buildings in the city are either heavily damaged or used as refugee centres and neighbourhood schools are being established throughout Sarajevo. Many of the new, larger schools are held in shelters for safety, and because of a shortage of undamaged and unused buildings. The school authorities are even trying to publish course books, but they will have to wait for electricity to be reconnected.

However, even on the ground floor, the teachers are worried about having so many children in one place in case the area is hit by shelling. "We hope that it will be safe, but who knows?" said the English teacher.

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True scholars as well as pedants will miss those intriguing disputes at the bottom of the page, writes Daniel Johnson

Decline and fall of the footnote

Of the books you read (or meant to read) over Christmas, did any have notes? If any did, would you still have wanted to read them if notes had not been provided? Do notes make a difference on your estimate of a book, whether before or after reading it? I hope publishers are asking readers these questions. Chatto & Windus certainly seem to have omitted to do so when they paid some £800,000 in advance to Michael Holroyd for his biography of Bernard Shaw, three huge volumes of which appeared between 1988 and 1991. They did not sell nearly well enough to recoup the advance.

Earlier this year a fourth slim volume slipped almost unnoticed onto the market. It concerned the posthumous fate of Shaw's estate, and was the sort of thing most biographers would be hard-pressed to write a chapter about, let alone a separate volume. Libraries, Shavians and Holroydians will, however, have bought it.

Now Chatto has published a fat 500-page Volume 4 & 5, costing £40, in which the author's text comprises only 90 pages, while the rest consists of some 300 pages of source notes, 55 pages of index and a few appendices. This volume is called *The Shaw Companion*, which makes it sound like a self-contained work. It is actually a reprint of the slim fourth volume, plus the notes and index for the whole bloated enterprise, of no interest to anybody who does not possess the first three volumes. Those who have already bought Volume 4 will now have to buy this volume too. This is bookmaking, unfortunately not of the kind practised at race courses.

Though Mr Holroyd's 9,000 source notes represent a prodigious labour, they are not interesting enough to make a book. But the idea of a volume consisting largely of scholarly annotations is neither new nor ridiculous. Here is the story of one such mega-footnote. In 1927 a young German-Jewish medieval historian, Ernst Kantorowicz, published a 650-page book on the Emperor Frederick II, *Kaiser Friedrich der Sweite*, which even his latest detractor Norman Cantor (whose new book *Inventing the Middle Ages* has the cheek to call Kantorowicz a Nazi) praises as "the most exciting biography of a medieval monarch produced this century". The book was widely read, but failed to impress academics because its extravagant portrait of a medieval Antichrist was not supported by source notes.

Four years later, in 1931, Kantorowicz vindicated himself. He published a second volume of *Investigations and Research*, in essence a gigantic footnote to the first volume. He was rewarded with a chair of history at Göttingen, though the Nazis ensured that he did not enjoy it for very long: in 1935 he emigrated, settled in Princeton and died there. So valuable was his *Ergänzungsband*, however, that in the most recent biography, *Frederick II: A Medieval Emperor*, the author, David Abulafia, dispenses with notes of his own and simply refers readers to the superlative analysis of the sources in Kantorowicz's second volume, now 60 years old, even though Abulafia disagrees profoundly with the older man's theories. To coin a phrase: the footnote's magic reunites those whom fashion sets apart. (A footnote to the above.)

I do not pretend to know when the first book with notes was published. Was it in ancient China or India? Perhaps there were annotated editions of Homer or Hesiod which perished in the conflagration of the library of Alexandria or the sack of Constantinople. Judaism, Christianity and Islam all produced countless commentaries on their sacred texts almost from the beginning. Medieval scholasticism refined the gloss[1] to a subtle art.

But only since the Enlightenment have most authors who pretend to intellectual rigour imposed on themselves a duty to provide references at least to the most important of their sources. For most of the 19th century it was quite common for famous professors to publish books without notes, but (as the Kantorowicz episode proved) by the 1920s it had become a dangerous thing for an ambitious academic to do. Now the wheel has come full circle. For the past generation or so, the fashion has been to dispense with footnotes in favour of brief references at the end of each chapter or even the whole book. The great era of the footnote may have lasted no more than two centuries.

Though relegated to the bottom of the page, footnotes (often printed in a much smaller typeface than the main text) had, like the pawns in chess, a lust to expand. The disputatious seized on the footnote for the purpose of putting down rival authorities; more Olympian sages could employ footnotes in the manner of actors making an aside to the audience, to leaven their unrelenting seriousness by addressing the reader in a more intimate tone of voice, without interrupting the flow of the book's argument. Edward Gibbon used the footnote to win over the prudish, by leaving indecent passages in the original Latin, and also to provide an ironical running commentary on his historical narrative. In the hands of a great master such as Gibbon, the footnote (like the title page, the preface and the dedication before it) could become a minor literary form in its own right.

It also provided opportunities for a major form of pedantry. The proliferation of scholarly publications caused such cluttering of the text with references to secondary literature that footnotes acquired a bad reputation. In fact, footnotes became synonymous with pedantry. Hence the insistence of most present-day publishers on banishing all notes to the end, for reasons of economy, has met with very little resistance, even though it is almost always more convenient for the reader to be able to check sources at a glance, without having to look up the reference several hundred pages further on. The sad consequence has been the gradual disappearance of the footnote, on which authors once expended so much learned wit, and its replacement by the unadorned reference or source note. Nobody buries bright ideas at the back of the book.

[1] *gloss: a note inserted between the lines or in the margins of a text.*

A reputation ripe for revision

At last Tories must reassess Churchill's leadership, says Alan Clark



December is the anniversary month of the great Italian defeats in North Africa. A tiny British force, never more than two divisions strong, in nine short weeks took prisoner a quarter of a million Italian soldiers, liberated Egypt, annexed Cyrenaica and half of Tripoli. So concerned did the King of Italy become that he wanted to depose Mussolini and make a separate peace with Britain. Two years and many hundreds of thousands of lives before it actually happened, the Mediterranean would have been tranquil.

It was an astonishing turn of fortune. Less than six months earlier this same country, Italy, had been suggested by the Foreign Office as the most suitable arbitrator to negotiate a ceasefire between Nazi Germany and the allies (the French still had a few days to go before they surrendered).

Even allowing for the habitual preference of that great office of state to negotiate from weakness, it was a lethal concept. Mussolini, a fascist dictator deeply sympathetic to the ideas and objectives of Nazism, having witnessed the German triumphs in the West, was now poised to attack. It was a matter of days.

Could he be bought off? Try him with Gibraltar, Malta, the French colonies, Corsica, a protectorate over Egypt. Let him "convey to" Hitler that the German colonies would be returned forthwith; that the "new" frontiers in Europe would be recognised, the governments in exile banished from London. Anything to get an armistice before the invasion of Britain — which would undoubtedly have succeeded — began.

These terms Halifax, the foreign secretary, warned colleagues, "deserve careful consideration". And so, on May 26, 1940, there took place what must have been the unhappiest cabinet meeting in British history.

It is a truism that politicians assess a situation first in terms of their own career prospects; second, against the electoral implications for their party; last (and reluctantly because of its latent conflict with the other two factors) the national interest. But on this occasion the national interest, in the shape of preventing imminent, total and abject defeat on the field of battle, dominated.

They were an ill-assorted group. Churchill, as prime minister, enjoyed popular support. But he was deeply mistrusted by the Conservatives, who dominated the House of Commons. He had been in office barely a fortnight. The party's titular leader, the ousted Neville Chamberlain, sat at the cabinet table, needing not to remind his colleagues that he could at any time draw on that special fund of affection which Conservatives bestow as a legacy on dignitaries whom they have betrayed.

Halifax, who was the establishment and — most flagrantly expressed — the "palace" choice, loomed, taciturn and stooping, over the beleaguered Churchill. Only five weeks before Halifax could have taken the leadership. He knew that. Churchill knew that. Halifax was waiting for it to fall into his lap. Churchill's blunders ("Winston is really a rogue elephant") would soon exhaust his newfound, but transient and volatile, support in the Commons.

But Churchill was adamant. He knew two things. First, that once we started talking we could never take up arms again. The peace conference would turn into a liquidators' audit. Second, that his own position, however tenuous it might be in cabinet, was doomed irrevocably once it got out that negotiations were being considered.

He interposed a break in the cabinet discussion, convened a meeting of junior ministers which he addressed alone, and in a manner that was far from objective, and returned to the subject with his hand greatly, if temporarily, strengthened.

It is important to understand these tensions so as to appreciate Churchill's single-minded determination to keep the war going. The defeat of Hitler was his *raison d'être*. It was this which had brought him stage by stage, against all prediction, the whole way from the political wilderness to the premiership. But this objective was neither shared nor even understood by the party on whose votes in the Commons Churchill depended.

The aim of the Tories was to *conserve* — the existing social order at home, and the integrity of the empire overseas. Appeasement, intelligently managed, was Chamberlain's preferred solution. Reckless radicalism, bombast, posturing — these things were anathema to core Conservatives. Churchill understood all this. He felt uneasy with the Toty bosses, muttered against them in private, excluded their nominees from the court at Number 10.

There were several occasions when a rational leader could have got, first reasonable, then excellent, terms from Germany. Hitler actually offered peace in July 1940 before the Battle of Britain started. After the RAF victory the German terms were still available, now weighted more in Britain's favour.

In spring 1941, following the total defeat of the Italians in Africa, Britain had recovered its military poise and not yet paid over all its gold reserves to America. Hitler wanted to secure his flank before he turned on Russia. Hess, his deputy, flew uninvited to Britain with terms. Churchill who saw the domestic dangers, would not talk to him, and repressed (in conspiracy with the whole establishment) the documents.

This was the real watershed, because if Britain had made peace in April 1941 the fleet and the Spitfires could have been moved to Singapore. The Japanese would never have attacked and the Far Eastern empire would have endured. But Churchill did not attach as much importance to this as to defeating Hitler; and he realised that *total* defeat was only possible if the United States entered the war. Only the Japanese could cause this to happen. Why deter them?

Churchill's abasement of Britain before the United States has its origins in the same obsession. The West Indian bases were handed over; the closed markets for British exports were to be dismantled, the entire portfolio of (largely private) holdings in America was liquidated. "A very nice little list," was Roosevelt's comment when the British ambassador offered it. "You guys aren't broke yet." All this against a background of signal intercepts from old Joe Kennedy saying the British are finished, don't send them another red cent.

Anyone in the Tory party who realised what was happening was horrified. Even Beaverbrook and Bracken, in Churchill's private court, were uneasy, and complained to him.

Who was right? The war went on far too long, and when Britain emerged the country was bust. Nothing remained of assets overseas. Without immense and punitive borrowings from the US we would have starved. The old social order had gone forever. The empire was criminally damaged. The Commonwealth countries had seen their trust betrayed and their soldiers wasted, while the colonies had been most effectively taught by their evicted masters how to rebel against an occupying power.

The damage inflicted on Treasury and empire was matched by Churchill's neglect of the Tory's domestic image and policies. He gave little thought to the direction which a postwar Conservative administration should take, the interdependence of education, industry, energy and housing. He ignored the pleas of reformers like Butler and Woolton, and tended to avoid their company. Nor even did he turn his mind to the slow disintegration of the party machine in the constituencies, precursor of catastrophic electoral defeat.

And yet, so docile and leader-oriented is the Conservative party that — for years — to assert these facts has been heresy. Now set out in a most scholarly work of some 700 pages, is probably the most important revisionist text to be published since the war*. It is a sad tale. A heroic moment, whose importance can never be measured, then the inexorable decline — downhill all the way from one miscalculation to another — of the Churchill premiership. A pied piper's trail of opportunity discarded, needless abasement endured, and a grievous ransom paid in blood and treasure.

Truly, history can be written in a hundred different ways. But the lessons are always there, for those who read patiently.

*Churchill: The End of Glory *by John Charmley is published next week by Hodder & Stoughton, £30. Alan Clark is an historian and former defence minister.*

Brother Edward

HAVING helped to bring down the Heath government in 1974 it would be surprising if the trade union leaders of those strife-torn days had anything very nice to say about the former prime minister. Well, prepare to be surprised.

Two of the leading trade unionists of the 1970s and 1980s now consider Sir Edward to have been rather a good thing. Jack Jones, who was general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union during the Heath government, and Ron Todd, who filled the same post in the latter half of the Eighties, have not only praised Sir Edward, but go on to laud his virtues above those of Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan, the only trade union official to have become prime minister.

They do so in *The Brothers*, a three-part series on the unions which begins next Tuesday on Radio 4. In the programme, Jones loftily recalls Lord Callaghan. "Jim was a minor official of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, which was not regarded exactly as the strongest union. It was a limited professional union within the civil service.

"That is not saying he did not have sympathy with the trade unions any more than the others. Mind you ... I must say Ted Heath had sympathy with the trade unions in many ways, and in some ways a closer sensitivity. Not publicly. But my impression was that because his father had been a workman he had a better understanding than Wilson and even to a degree than Jim Callaghan."

Todd agrees. "At least the Heath government listened. They may not agree with everybody. But it was a government that you could go to meet. I remember many union leaders meeting Ted Heath and having discussions. They were not totally happy, but at least you felt you were involved in some general consensus."

Heath is genuinely flattered by the belated praise. Both his experience as Minister of Labour in the Macmillan government, and having a father who was a carpenter, had helped to form his attitude, he said. "I have believed all my political life that the best results would be achieved by management, unions and government working together. When I became prime minister I put that into effect and presided over 53 meetings with employers and the unions."

Heath saw no irony in the unions, which defeated his government, now coming to his defence. "It was only one union, the miners. It has always been my regret that the other trade unions did not succeed in persuading the miners to follow their programme."

THE TIMES DIARY

● *For those who spent yesterday treating expensively acquired hangovers, some consolation. It could have been worse. They could, for example, have been the Italian businessman who last week paid 99,999,999 lira for a bottle of 50-year-old Glenfiddich, a dram or so short of £46,000. Dependent on the heaviness of the pouring hand, drinking it could cost him about £2,000 a glass. Ouch!*

Top of the pop

EVEN in his schooldays Michael Heseltine demonstrated the entrepreneurial flair which has made him the richest man in the House of Commons.

Writing in *The Times Educational Supplement*, Heseltine recalls running a soft drinks trade with three fellow Shrewsbury pupils. "It was a very basic enterprise which involved walking 400 yards down the hill to the local post office to buy fizzy lemonade in four-bottle crates and carrying it back up the hill to school where we divided it into glasses. We charged about twice as much per glass as we had paid."

Conveniently, Heseltine does not remember the name of his fellow young business partners. But, like all millionaires, he has not forgotten the profit margin. "I think we made about £12 a term." Clearly no competition from cheap imports in those days.

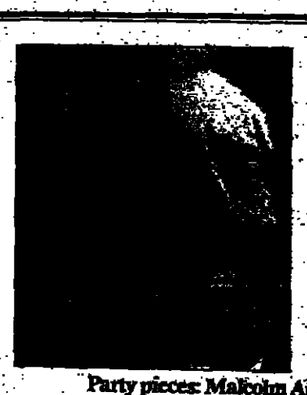
The last laugh

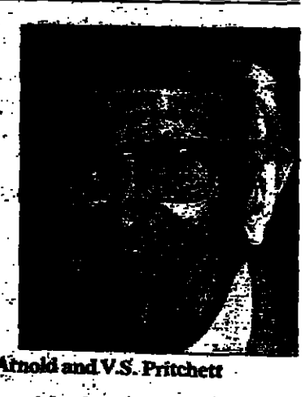
GOOD comics never die or, if they do, they are commemorated in ceramic by the Dead Comics Society. The latest to get this treatment is Benny Hill, whose Southampton home is about to receive one of the society's exclusive plaques. The semi-detached house in Westrow Gardens will be only the seventh to be thus honoured. Coincidentally the sixth is also in Southampton, the home of Eric Sykes.

The idea was the brainchild of David Graham, a marketing consultant and comedy fan, who decided Peter Sellers was in need of honouring after reading a biography of the *Goon Show* star. When he discovered Sellers did not qualify for an English Heritage blue London plaque, having been dead less than 20 years, Graham decided to institute his own society. Those who have been honoured so far include Tony Hancock, Arthur Haynes and Sid James.

Graham says that Hill, who grew up and never moved from the family home in central Southampton, certainly qualifies as one of "Britain's kings of comedy". Frankie Howerd's commemoration cannot be far off. "A plaque o' both your houses" as *Carry On Shakespeare* might have said.







Party pieces: Malcolm Arnold and V.S. Pritchett

Called to the bar

IT MUST be hoped that composer Malcolm Arnold and writer V.S. Pritchett have not overdone their new year celebrations, as for them the party season is far from over.

The Savile Club, of which they are both veteran members, has decided to throw a party to celebrate their awards in the New Year Honours List. The Oscar-winning Arnold received a knighthood, while Pritchett, who was knighted in 1975, is to become a Companion of Honour.

Plans are already afoot to rope some of the Savile's other artistically-inclined members into the celebrations. Stephen Fry and David Suchet should not be too surprised if they receive a call in the next few days.

Pritchett, who was 92 on December 16, is used to bashes being thrown in his honour. The Savile threw a 90th birthday party for him as did his publishers and his agents. "We thought we might have a musical evening," says Piers Pottinger, who is organising the event. "Sir Malcolm might be encouraged to knock off a few bars, although the type of bars most members are familiar with are of an altogether different kind. It will be a very convivial evening none the less."

هكذا من الأصل

THE JANUS FACES OF HURD

Britain's defence of principle is evaporating in Balkan air

Ambiguity has many uses in what Douglas Hurd is fond of referring to as "good, old-fashioned diplomacy". The deterrence of aggression is not one of them. This Mr Hurd well understood after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. As the allied coalition mobilised in the Gulf, all his public statements were calculated to impress on President Saddam Hussein that his choice was between agreeing to withdraw and being forced out.

In the wake of the Gulf war, Mr Hurd continued to defend action, including safe havens and air exclusion zones, not only to compel Saddam to comply with all the UN's terms but also to prevent human rights atrocities against Iraqi Kurds and Shias. His watchwords were the defence of international law, including humanitarian law, and the inadmissibility of any attempt to change frontiers by force.

Yet in his reluctance to take military action in the former Yugoslavia, Mr Hurd's enthusiasm for enforcing these golden rules has become much more selective. The more Mr Hurd's arguments are eroded by Serbian intransigence and the risk of a wider war in southern Europe, the more delphic his pronouncements have become.

His New Year message to all Foreign Office staff yesterday is that of a deeply perplexed man. He speaks of "a world of increasing disorder". He acknowledges Britain's duty, as a country at the heart of all the potential institutions of order — whether Nato, the United Nations, the European Community or the Commonwealth — "to strengthen them to carry a stronger weight".

Yet he seems to accept this duty almost as one forced on British diplomacy by a public opinion with high, and in his view unrealistic, expectations of what can be done to alleviate human agony and impose peace, expectations fed "by a media whose instinct is to dramatise and simplify". He urges his officials to bring home to the public that the human and material cost of securing a new world order will be "far greater" than it is now prepared to contemplate. And he criticises "armchair lamentation" as "worse than useless, unless we are prepared for the sacrifices needed in countries of which hitherto we have known little or nothing".

This last phrase is particularly arresting. Coming from Mr Hurd, this echo of Chamberlain's words during the Munich crisis must have been deliberate. Yet this is the man who, as recently as September, was calling on the UN to assume an imperial role in African countries collapsing into anarchy, talking of "putting UN blue on the map" and talking about "a new stage in the way the world's going to have to run its affairs".

Is Mr Hurd more conscious now than he was then of the UN's limitations? If so, is he more anxious for international institutions to be made effective enough to catch up with public opinion; or to persuade public opinion that their weakness dictates a lowering of expectations? Or is it that he believes peace in Africa to be attainable, with effort, but the fires of nationalism to Nato's south and east to be as far beyond the West's power to control as Chamberlain believed was Britain's power to contain Hitler's ambitions?

In Sarajevo last July, Mr Hurd told the Bosnians that Britain would not accept the country's partition. Earlier this week, he seemed reluctantly to accept that the Serbs' pursuit of this and further ambitions in defiance of the UN had brought him to the point where he could "imagine armed action against them to prevent a general Balkan war". Belgrade, he said, should "note a change". Yet Serbia's leaders could well interpret yesterday's message to mean that they need fear from Britain nothing more than diplomatic ostracism.

The West neither has, nor should have, the appetite to establish eastern protectorates in the name of European order. Yet the EC's founding purpose was to end the possibility of war in Europe. And it is not just sensational reporting that feeds public incredulity that the EC lacks the diplomatic weight, and Nato the strength, to contain the fighting in the Balkans. Clear answers are needed from the British government on whether, and if so in what circumstances, aggression in Europe is to be rewarded, and what sacrifices it is prepared to ask the British people to make for peace. American impatience with British dithering over enforcement in Yugoslavia is palpable. Bill Clinton, the incoming US president, is entitled to expect more of the special relationship than Mr Hurd's public displays of high-minded ambivalence.

A NEW MAP FOR BROADCASTING

Pessimists about ITV are missing the point

A generous tribute was paid by the BBC to Granada Television this week in a four-hour celebration of Granadaland. It was well deserved. At its best Granada has been renowned for its successful mix of serious drama (most notably *Jewel in the Crown*), popular soap opera (*Coronation Street* still attracts audiences of nearly 20 million), and the crusading journalism of *World in Action* which often put newspapers to shame.

As four new companies take over from Thames, TVS, TSW and TV-am and Channel 4 starts to compete for advertising with Channel 3, the timing of Granadaland could easily be interpreted as a fraternal gesture by the BBC to a rival which pessimists fear is about to lose Granada's original sense of mission. Those fears were acknowledged yesterday by Marcus Plantin, the new ITV network director, when he insisted that Channel 3 was not about to turn into a cultural desert of cheap entertainment and violent drama.

Yet the fears persist, and for good reasons. The main effect of Margaret Thatcher's determination to sort out ITV was the blind-bid auctions for the new franchises. Carlton, the biggest of the new companies, bid £43 million a year. On top of that it has to pay the Chancellor an extra 11 per cent of revenue — say another £30 million — before it even starts to pay its costs. Across ITV, an estimated £100 million previously spent on programmes will now go to the Treasury.

That will be a potent incentive to pursue only mass audiences in the peak evening hours and to reject cherished programmes that appeal to minorities, albeit counted in millions. Another will be the declining share of total advertising for ITV as satellite and cable channels increase their market penetration and claim more of the £2 billion previously spent by advertisers only on ITV.

The pessimists, however, protest too much. The Granada of *Jewel in the Crown* flourished in a monopolistic television system which guaranteed jumbo profits. That era has passed. Within only a few years, ITV companies will be competing not only with the five channels of BSkyB but with 30, 40 or 50 rival channels. Satellite and cable television will be beamed into 12 million homes, claiming a third of the total commercial television audience — and there will still be two powerful BBC channels.

An equally significant event for broadcasting this week is the arrival of John Birt as director-general of the BBC. Mr Birt is determined that the BBC should seek out the high ground and maintain and extend its core Reithian values. As ITV seeks bigger audiences, the role of the BBC in quality entertainment and in catering to minority political and cultural interests will be crucial to the new map of British broadcasting. So explosive is the pace of change in the new electronic information age, indeed, that Mr Birt's success in winning the argument for the BBC's unique mission could within five years be the only justification for the licence fee — as well as a resounding answer to pessimistic forecasts about the new era in ITV.

PRO LIBRIS

Technology cannot match the pleasures of a book



Less than 60 years after the paperback revolution, the library you put in your pocket may be only a megabyte away. Scientists are conspiring to make the bookshelf and the card-index obsolete, replacing them with databases which scholars, bookworms and browsers can consult on computer screens in the comfort of their homes. The prospect of the Bodleian or Bibliothèque Nationale on a silicon chip is not as far-fetched as it sounds. CD-Rom technology, which enables astonishing amounts of information to be stored on diskette, is already revolutionising library catalogues and archive methods.

Luddite objections to this sort of initiative should be ignored: anything which promotes access to learning is worthwhile. In Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*, the blind monk Jorge of Burgos regards the abbey library as a means of concealing knowledge rather than disseminating it — a caricature containing a germ of truth. Readers at the British Library, angry that the new buildings will contain fewer seats than expected, might welcome a system enabling them to read when and where they liked.

Yet rumours that the history of the book is in its final chapter are exaggerated. Technology does not always defeat tradition, witness the survival of film-going in the video age. Microfiche, audio cassettes and video tapes have all been tipped to make books obsolete, but book sales over the next two years are expected to grow by 5 per cent in this country and 33 per cent in America.

Scientists should not assume that books are simply primitive paper databases, ignoring their aesthetic and emotional riches. A visual display unit can be a source of erudition; but erudition is not the same as bibliophilia. The semi-literate West Saxon kings of the 10th Century thought books so precious that they stored them with their holy relics. For many a modern collector, the smell of the vellum and the satisfying crack of the spine is as important as the text itself.

More than any high-tech gadget, books are an expression of their owner's identity. When John Selden's books were transferred to the Bodleian in 1659, several pairs of spectacles slipped from their pages. Gibbon's private library became his life. There is little intimacy in a magnetic disk.

The English were passionate booklovers long before free libraries first opened in 1850. In the 14th Century, Lollards died for the right to read in their own language. Last year, the charity Book Aid sent more than a million books to Russia, and debate will continue to rage over the texts which the national curriculum should prescribe for schoolchildren. The microchip may add to the nation's literary pleasures; but the English bookworm is not about to turn.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The consciences of the foxhunters and their opponents

From Sir Stephen Waley-Cohen, Bt

Sir, Your leader (December 28) suggests that hunting is not already undertaken in accordance with strict codes of conduct. It was precisely because of their breaches of the Masters of Foxhounds Association code that the Masters of the Quorn were suspended as Masters.

You also refer to hunt followers and supporters as "nobs". Here on Exmoor the vast majority of hunting people are local folk. Perhaps surprisingly, the same is true of the Quorn. Not that the social background of followers of hounds has any impact on the outcome of the chase from the quarry's perspective.

It is because hunting is a legal and well regulated activity, with widespread and broadly-based support, that hunting people find the violent attacks by the opponents of this traditional rural sport so hard to understand.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN WALEY-COHEN,
Honeymead, Simonsbath,
Minehead, Somerset.
December 28.

From Mr Edmund Vestey

Sir, I welcome the spirit of tolerance towards foxhunting reflected in Annie Rankin's article (December 26) and your leading article. An individual's decision to hunt is clearly a matter for personal conscience, not legislation.

But as the leading article rightly concludes, this is no excuse for those who hunt to ignore the views of the majority. We have a duty to ensure that foxhunting is firmly regulated, and that cruelty is stamped out. We must then ensure that as many people as possible understand what hunting is all about, why it is necessary and why we do it.

I am pleased to say that the hunting community is not entirely resistant to the winds of change. Following the Quorn incident, in which a fox was dug out of the ground and hunted (report, November 1, 1991), foxhunting's ruling body asked a leading barrister to review the rules and disciplinary procedures. He recommended a number of changes, all of which have been adopted. With his help we have also published a code of conduct so that those who follow hunting, whether on horseback, on foot or by car, are always mindful of the concerns and convenience of others. Over 100,000 copies have been distributed.

We now intend to embark on an extensive programme of education, especially in our towns and cities, through which we plan to raise the level of understanding of hunting and to engender a widespread appreciation of the essential part it plays in life in the countryside.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND VESTEY
(Chairman),
Masters of Foxhounds Association,
Little Thurlow Hall, Little Thurlow,
Haverhill, Suffolk.
December 28.

From Dr Alan Long

Sir, Many "single-issue fanatics" (leading article, December 28) pay regard to the fox's plight as well as to the unnecessary trade in the prey sacrificed to human appetites (letter, December 28).

This year's traffic in live animals for slaughter has included exports of over a million lambs and half a million baby calves snatched from their mothers so that human consumers can claim the cows' udders and satisfy their demand for beef, burgers, and veal. These are the like of the animals revered in nativity scenes by proponents of "the old English virtue of tolerance" and "that other honourable old English tradition of shouting for the underdog".

Good wishes,
ALAN LONG,
14 Woodland Rise,
Greenford, Middlesex.
December 28.

From Mr R. D. Lewis

Sir, Many of us opposed to hunting would agree that the production of meat involves cruelty. This is one reason why, after seeing what happens in a slaughterhouse, I became a vegetarian, but it is one thing to cause suffering to an animal in the mistaken belief that the eating of meat is essential to good health, and another to chase an animal to exhaustion because it is good fun to do so.

You repeat in your leader the old canard that foxes have to be culled. This is true of deer but not of predators, whose numbers adjust to the availability of food.

Not all antis are suburbanites and many town-dwellers hunt. Indeed, I was converted to the belief that hunting was an unnecessary cruelty by a man who farmed over 400 acres in Hertfordshire. I spent much of my childhood on this farm, where chickens roamed the yards and orchards half wild. In all the years that I was there no chickens were lost to foxes so far as it was known, even though the farmer banned hunting on his land.

If the country gentry, and those who would ape them, are to be allowed their blood sports because they enjoy them, why should not people in our cities be allowed to organise dog and cock fights?

Yours faithfully,
R. D. LEWIS,
9 Canons Close, Bishopsteignton,
Teignmouth, Devon.
December 28.

British aid for Somali police

From Brigadier M. B. Page

Sir, Tony Scawin (letter, December 26) refers to the urgent need to re-equip the police in the northwest of Somalia — the area of the former British protectorate.

During the past few weeks the mayor of Hargeisa has achieved a significant step forward in restoring law and order. He has raised and started to train a police force of 300 men. However, the force is without equipment, uniforms, vehicles and communications.

Help with refresher training is also needed. Five weeks ago the mayor appealed, via Partner Aid International, for British assistance.

A highly cost-effective form of aid would be the provision of a British police training mission, to help to bring this newly re-raised force to a high standard of professionalism. Thereafter, cadres from the Hargeisa police unit could be used to form police forces for other towns in the northwest, and a field force formed for rural operations.

Subsequently, these small forces could be combined into a single police force for the northwest.

Speed is of the essence. The training mission should operate under the control of the head of the UN mission in Somalia, Dr Ismat Kattini, who has the total responsibility for security in Somalia. In particular, its presence will enable him to minimise any UN troop deployment planned for the northwest, economising in troops and avoiding any adverse reactions to the presence of foreigners.

HMG should immediately send an assessment team, led by a senior police officer, to establish needs and to prepare budgets. The mission should be in place within two months.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM PAGE
(Chairman of Council,
The Anglo Somali Society),
11 Cedar House, Ancastle Green,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
December 27.

Royal engagements

From Mr Tim O'Donovan

Sir, I have carried out a survey of the official engagements performed by the royal family during 1992, as reported in the Court Circular:

	A	B	C	D
The Queen	127	51	269	26
Duke of Edinburgh	125	96	29	81
The Queen Mother	55	25	11	1
Prince of Wales	151	65	99	38
Princess of Wales	188	28	19	24
Duke of York	65	31	4	5
Prince Edward	104	65	30	53
Princess Royal	299	94	78	59
Princess Margaret	92	30	12	8
Duke of Gloucester	131	25	17	17
Duchess of Gloucester	113	26	15	10
Duke of Kent	116	42	34	22
Duchess of Kent	122	21	7	19
Princess Alexandra	119	15	10	17

A Official visits, opening ceremonies and other engagements.
B Receptions, lunches, dinners and banquets.
C Other engagements, including investitures, meetings attended and audiences given.
D Number of days spent travelling abroad on official tours.

On official tours abroad the Queen carried out 141 engagements, the Duke of Edinburgh 384, the Queen Mother two, the Prince of Wales 145, the Princess of Wales 107, the Duke of York 33, Prince Edward 218, the Princess Royal 215 and Princess Margaret five.

The number of official engagements undertaken by the Duke of York was necessarily reduced, due to his duties as a serving officer in the Royal Navy.

Yours faithfully,
TIM O'DONOVAN,
Mariners, The Avenue,
Datchet, Berkshire.
December 31.

Coffee prices

From the Associate Director of Oxfam

Sir, It is good news for many Third World nations that international coffee prices are at last increasing, and a few pence extra on the price of a jar will make very little difference to consumers in the UK (report, December 30). But behind the good news lie the broken lives of thousands of Third World coffee farmers.

The apparently welcome cut-back in production which has caused prices to rise has had a high social price. Some 82 per cent of the world's coffee is grown on small family-farmed plots of land. It is these people who have been "getting out of coffee in despair", as analyst Peter Kettle put it in your report. In order to make a living in some places, notably parts of Latin America, former coffee farmers have been "getting into" other, more profitable cash crops such as cocaine.

It is ironic that when coffee prices fell, Third World farmers were forced out of business. When prices recover it is still multinational companies which benefit most, because they control the processing. Growers typically receive only 8 per cent of the sale price of coffee, whereas coffee sold by Oxfam and other alternative trading organisations can return nearly three times that amount.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID JONES,
Associate Director, Oxfam,
274 Banbury Road, Oxford.

Carey at Christmas

From Mr Ray Petch

Sir, The *gravamen* of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Christmas sermon (report, December 26) struck me as extraordinarily inapposite.

There has been a general decline over the past 30 years or more both in the responsiveness of those in authority over us and their probity. That decline has been even more marked in 1992. The Archbishop should have addressed his admonitions to those in authority rather than to those of us who are, and wish to be, subject to that authority.

Yours faithfully,
RAY PETCH,
3 Laureate Gardens,
Newmarket, Suffolk.
December 27.

From Mr Tim Frost

Sir, I switched on my TV on Christmas day to see an individual dressed from tip to toe in gold and jewels. A dancing girl? A magician? A salesman for de Beers? No, none of these. It was the Archbishop of Canterbury. And what message was this gold-bedecked, jewel-encrusted individual attempting to preach? Concern about the increasing materialism of British society.

Yours faithfully,
TIM FROST,
70 Silver Crescent, Chiswick, W4.
December 29.

From Mr E. W. M. Richardson

Sir, Dr Carey is shown (photograph, December 26) being robed, shortly before preaching his Christmas day sermon in Canterbury Cathedral. The caption describes him as "assuming an angelic appearance". Even the most accommodating angel would surely think twice before wearing a clerical collar, horn-rimmed spectacles and episcopal rings.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM RICHARDSON,
1 Tibberton House,
16 Tibberton Road,
Malvern, Worcestershire.

Scarce wild trout

From Dr Dick Potts

Sir, Mr Jack Willans (letter, December 22) takes us to task for pointing out (report, December 7) that most anglers are much more interested in taking home a big bag of hatchery fish than in catching and releasing wild fish.

We were certainly not implying that anglers catching predominantly hand-reared trout, whether rainbow or brown, were fishing beyond the bag limits imposed by their fisheries.

Rather, our point is that many anglers rely on these fisheries and their hand-reared trout for sport, typically catching four to six fish per rod per day, weighing anything between 1lb and 10lb each.

Unsurprisingly, such anglers are unlikely to change to catching (and then, where appropriate, releasing) a smaller bag of wild trout, with fish rarely exceeding 1lb in weight.

The danger is that the high levels of stocking hand-reared trout in English rivers may, in the long term, damage our natural stocks of wild trout.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. POTTS
(Director General designate),
The Game Conservancy Trust,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.
December 23.

Busman's lament

From Miss Connie Rothwell

Sir, As one of the 900 casualties of my bankrupt local, privatised, ex-National Bus Company subsidiary, I was depressed by Mr Pete Feather's letter (December 26).

Apart from the obvious point that at 30-40 years of age he should be able to organise himself a clear uniform shirt every day, I cannot agree that passengers don't notice or care what the drivers wear. I am certain that more confidence is engendered by a smart, well turned out driver.

Far from whingeing about how much money his lack of organisation has cost him, Mr Feather should appreciate that rules are rules: if he was told he would be sent home if he didn't wear his uniform, then sent home he must be. He should also be worrying about more important things than white shirts — privatisation and deregulation, for example.

Yours faithfully,
CONNIE ROTHWELL,
20 Lidmore Road,
Barry, South Glamorgan.

From Mr Allan Horsfall

Sir, Yes, Mr Feather, many of us here in the Manchester area, and no doubt elsewhere, *do* notice (and care about) how busmen dress — just as we care about whether they are running early, or smoking, or playing loud music from portable radios, or failing to display the correct destination.

Some of us believe that slovenliness which is tolerated in one area soon spreads to others, and we are delighted to learn that some of London's bus managers are now insisting upon uniform smartness among bus crews.

Since, unlike most of us, Mr Feather gets his nice new white shirts free of charge, the least he could do is see that they are washed and ready for wear when required.

Yours sincerely,
ALLAN HORSFALL
(Chairman, The Bus Users' Society),
91a Longcauseway, Farnworth,
Bolton, Lancashire.

From Mrs D. Ellis

Sir, Mr Feather asks whether the image of bus crews is more important than the safety of the buses he drives. The answer appears to be yes.

Under Conservative government, image has become increasingly more important than substance. We have become satiated with glossy brochures, expensive packaging, fancy uniforms, various citizens' charters, new logos and work practices — not one of which has improved the service with which it is associated in any way. But they have "improved the image" or "raised the profile", whatever that means; so all must be well.

Yours,
DIANA ELLIS,
11 Raven Drive,
Kettering, Northamptonshire.
December 28.

Weekend Money letters, page 30

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Top people's pay

From His Honour Judge Peter Jackson

Sir, The new director general of the prison service, who has been recruited from the private sector, will be paid £125,000 per year plus a performance-related bonus (report, December 22).

This is more than double the pay of his predecessor, a career civil servant, and of most judges. In fact, he will be paid more than any judge, senior member of the armed forces or police officer in the country.

Is one now to assume the government concedes it was wrong to reject the Top Salaries Review Body's recommendation earlier this year (reports, July 10, November 26) and that the matter may soon be rectified? To do so might assist in securing the appointment of some able lawyers to the bench, as urgently requested recently (report, December 1) by the Lord Chief Justice.

Yours faithfully,
PETER JACKSON,
3 Pump Court, Temple, EC4.
December 23.

Flying the flag

From Mr Philip Gordon

Sir, I have recently returned from Los Angeles by British Airways — an excellent flight, good food, courteous, efficient service. My only surprise was that among the 14 films listed for showing on board in the airline's in-flight magazine, one was French and 13 were American.

Where the movies are concerned, BA is certainly "flying the flag" — the Stars and Stripes.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GORDON,
4 Hillgate Place,
Kensington, W8.
December 31.

Christmas bonus

From the Reverend John Gordon Clark

Sir, Mrs Angela Gibson (letter, December 29) at least made a conscious decision to eschew buying crackers. We found, only an hour before we sat down to our Christmas dinner, that our son had failed in his solemn undertaking to purchase a supply. As a penance he had to compose ten jokes of an equally excruciating banality to that of the cracker-makers, in which task he succeeded memorably.

Our daughter meanwhile manufactured the same number of hats from last year's Christmas paper, which had been carefully set aside for just such an appalling crisis as this.

These magnificent creations were worn either Nelson-style or Napoleon-style and left the usual pale tissue paper variety standing in both quality and size.

As to gifts, these were already wrapped up in our napkins by my far-sighted wife. None of us missed the bangs.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GORDON CLARK,
Hillfield, 8 Little Warren Close,
Guildford, Surrey.
December 29.

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays

Today

Mr David Bailey, photographer, 55; Mr N.H. Baring, chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 59; Sir Richard Bayliss, former Physician to the Queen, 76; Mr Leopold Brook, former chairman, Simon Engineering, 81; Mr Christopher Campbell, chairman, British Shipbuilders, 57; the Duke of Devonshire, 73; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, geologist, 83; Mr Walter Harrison, former MP, 72; Miss Hilary Heilbron, QC, 44; Sir Michael Hirst, former MP, 47; Sir Anthony Lincoln, diplomat, 82; Mr Doug McAvoy, trades unionist, 54; Lord Nelson of Stafford, 76; Mr D.B. Pattullo, governor, Bank of Scotland, 55; Sir Charles Reece, former group research and technology director, ICI, 66; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, former chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 77; the Earl of St Germans, 52; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sidey, 80; Sir Keith Thomas, president, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 60; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CH, composer, 80; Dame Rachel Waterhouse, former chairman, Consumers' Association, 70; the Right Rev Kenneth Woollcombe, former Bishop of Oxford, 69.

Tomorrow

Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former president, National Savings Committee, 86; Mr David Atherton, conductor, 49; Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, 55; Mr John Bamborough, former principal, Linacre College, Oxford, 72; Mr Michael Barratt, broadcaster, 65; Mr Victor Borge, pianist and comedian, 84; Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary, 55; Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general, Office of Fair Trading, 54; Lord Colyton, 91; Mr Fran Cotton, rugby player, 45; Sir Alastair Forbes, former president, Court of Appeal, Gibraltar, 85; Mr Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, 68; Sir Roy Harding, education consultant, 69; Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Layard, 57; Miss Anya Linden, ballerina, 60; Sir Carol Mather, former MP, 74; Mr Siegmund Nissel, former member, Amadeus Quartet, 71; Sir John Riddell, royal equerry, 59; Miss Elrlys Roberts, former deputy director, Consumers' Association, 82; Mr R.R. Steedman, architect, 64; Mr John Thaw, actor, 51; Mr David Vine, sports commentator, 57; Professor T.S. Willan, economic historian, 83.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Thomas Yalden, poet, Oxford, 1669; James Wolfe, general and conqueror of Quebec, Westerham, Kent, 1727; Gilbert Murray, scholar, Sydney, New South Wales, 1866; Count Folke Bernadotte, UN mediator, Stockholm, 1895.

DEATHS: Ovid, poet, Tomi, on the Black Sea, 17AD; Johann Kaspar Lavater, physiognomist and poet, Zurich, 1801; Fabian Bellingshausen, Polar explorer, Russia, 1852; Alexander William Kinglake, historian of the Crimean War, London, 1891; Sir George Biddell Airy, Astronomer Royal 1836-81, Alnwick, Northumberland, 1892; Leon Philippe Teisserenc de Bort, meteorologist, Cannes, 1913; Sir Edward Tyler, anthropologist, Wellington, Somerset, 1917; Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer, London, 1946; Edna May, actress, 1948.

The Académie Française was founded by Cardinal Richelieu, 1635.

Sir Joshua Reynolds became the first president of the Royal Academy, which opened this day, 1769.

Sixty six people were killed when a barrier collapsed at Ibrox Park football ground, Glasgow, 1971.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman orator and statesman, Arpinum, Latium, 106BC; Pietro Antonio Metastasio, poet, Rome, 1698; Sir James Stephen, colonial administrator and historian, Lambeth, 1789; Robert Whitehead, inventor, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, 1823; Clement Attlee, 1st Earl Attlee, Prime Minister 1945-51, London, 1883; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, London, 1888; James Bridie (Osborne Henry Mavor), dramatist, Glasgow, 1888; J.R.R. Tolkien, scholar and writer, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 1892.

DEATHS: Josiah Wedgwood, potter, Burslem, Staffordshire, 1795; Rachel (Elisa Felix), actress, Cannes, 1858; Pierre Larousse, lexicographer, 1875; William Harrison Ainsworth, historical novelist, Reigate, Surrey, 1882; James Elroy Flecker, poet, Davos, Switzerland, 1915; Jaroslav Hasek, novelist, Lipnice, Czechoslovakia, 1923; William Joyce (Lord Haw-Haw), traitor, executed, London, 1946; Edwin Muir, writer, Cambridge, 1959; Conrad Hilton, hotel magnate, California, 1979.

Martin Luther, founder of Protestantism was excommunicated, 1521.

The siege of Sidney Street took place when anarchists led by "Peter the Painter" were beseiged by police in the East End of London, 1911.

Howard Carter discovered the sarcophagus in the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings, near Luxor, 1924.

Sir Edmund Hillary reached the South Pole, 1958.

The International Monetary Fund lent £2,300 million to Britain 1977.

University news

Queen's, Belfast

Research grants worth £1.5 million include:

School of Biology and Biochemistry, Professor A Ferguson, (in collaboration with Scotland Marine Laboratory Aberdeen, University College Cork, Universidad de Ovideo, Salmon Research Agency of Ireland and Xunta Galicia) £400,000 from the European Community, *An assessment of the the deliberate or inadvertent introduction of non-native Atlantic salmon into natural populations.*

School of Mechanical and Process Engineering: Professor G P Blair (with BMW Technik GmbH and Ficht GmbH) £226,562 (European Community) *A high efficiency high power two-stroke engine.*

Dr R Fleck £238,000 from Ford Motor Co Ltd, Le Moteur Moderne, France, Yamaha Motor, Japan, Piaggio VE, Italy, Outboard Marine Corporation, USA, Centro Ricerche Fiat, Italy, General Motors, USA, Mercury Marine, USA, Husqvarna Engine Research, Sweden, *Engine design software consortium.*

Computer Centre/Nitec/University of Ulster, Dr F V McBride, £176,533 (Science and Engineering Research Council and Northern Telecom) *Teaching Company programme between Queen's University of Ulster and Nitec.*

TIM BISHOP



Fitting role: Darcey Bussell of the Royal Ballet holds her lucky slipper as she rehearses for her debut as Cinderella in Sir Frederick Ashton's ballet, which opens at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London on Monday

Latest wills

Mr George Daniel **Ramsey**, of Oxford, the economic historian, and fellow and tutor at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, left estate valued at £497,724 net. He left bequests of effects and 98 per cent of the residue to relatives, and 1 per cent of the residue each to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, to improve the amenities of the Senior Common Room, and the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Mr Robert Edwin **Arthur**, of Penn, West Midlands, formerly of Tettenhall, left estate valued at £214,893 net. He left his entire estate to St Thomas of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church, Tettenhall.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mr Eric Cyril **Paine**, of Rochester, Kent £589,336

Mrs Kathleen Beatrice **Patrick**, of Heswall, Merseyside £501,043

Mrs Vera Evelyn **Sherwell**, of Purley, Surrey £1,082,580

Mrs Sylvia Doreen De Wilton **Sieger**, of Poole, Dorset £1,316,978

Mr Gilbert **Snow**, of Alton, Staffs ..... £805,767.

Mr Noel Marshall **Barratt**, of Macclesfield ..... £718,107.

Mr Richard Nigel **Haygarth**, of London SW19 ... £586,785.

Mr Geoffrey Michael **Horwood**, of Wilstead, Bedfordshire £786,635

Mr Richard Alfred **Johnston**, of Boston, Lincolnshire ..... £632,392.

Mrs Lily **Kutchinsky**, of London NW6 ..... £826,881.

Mrs Doreen Lewis **Matthews**, of Malvern, Hereford and Worcester ..... £555,488.

Mrs Henny **Midgen**, of London NW4 ..... £631,545.

Mrs Kathleen Ellen **Monk**, of Harrietsham, Kent £526,469.

Mr John Humphrey **Morris**, of Mold, Clwyd ..... £883,222.

Mrs Renee Gilbert **Rouse**, of Croydon, Surrey ..... £721,602.

Mrs Rhoda **Samuel**, of Brighton, East Sussex ..£1,407,049.

Mrs Doris Nellie **Smith**, of Mickleover, Derbyshire ..... £1,158,194.

Mr George Whitaker **West**, of Lancaster ..... £1,289,870.

Mr John Heal **Whitaker**, of Banbury, north Oxfordshire £845,346

Forthcoming marriages

Major J.I. Bashall and Dr S.L. Watson

The engagement is announced between Major James Bashall, The Parachute Regiment, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Bashall, of Burbage, Wiltshire, and Sarah-Lucie, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs Roger Watson, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Captain P.J. Benham-Crosswell and Miss C.J. Brownlow

The engagement is announced between Captain Patrick Benham-Crosswell, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs J.A. Benham-Crosswell, of Binsted, Hampshire, and Camilla, elder daughter of Major and Mrs W.S. Brownlow, of Portaferry, County Down.

Mr F.N. James and Miss N.A. Batten

The engagement is announced between Frederick Nicholas, elder son of Colonel and Mrs F.W. James, of Claverley, Shropshire, and Nicola Ann, only daughter of Mr J.J. Batten, of Farnham, Surrey, and Mrs J.R. Batten, of Butleigh, Somerset.

Mr L. Sharma and Miss M.A. Kemp

The engagement is announced between Laurence, son of Mrs Nancy Sharma and of the late Mr Sohan Sharma, of Alperton, Wembley, and Madeleine Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Kemp, of Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

Mr C.M. Walls and Miss H. Alexander

The engagement is announced between Christopher Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs Barry Walls, of Northall, Buckinghamshire, and Helen, daughter of Mrs Norma Alexander and the late Gordon Alexander, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.S. Bickersteth and Miss K.H. Parks

The engagement is announced between Sam, son of the Right Reverend John and Mrs Bickersteth, of Tisbury, Wiltshire, and Hannah, daughter of Lady Parks, of Dunwich, Suffolk and the late Sir Alan Parks.

Señor J.M. Bisbe Molin and Miss C.D. O'Leary

The engagement is announced between Josep M. son of Josep M. Bisbe Fabregas and Gianna Molin, of Barcelona, Spain, and Clodagh Denise, younger daughter of Mr Eamon and Mrs Denise O'Leary, of Whitchurch, Cardiff.

Mr B.L. Harding and Miss R.E. Earlam

The engagement is announced between Benjamin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Gavin Harding, of Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, and Rachel, middle daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs David Earlam, of Canterbury.

Mr M.S. Hyatt and Miss C. Holmes-Milner

The engagement is announced between Michael Sinclair, son of Mr and Mrs Edwin Hyatt, of Courtfield Road, Kensington, and Catherine, daughter of Dr and Mrs Grahame Holmes-Milner, of Sandhurst Lodge, Bexhill, Sussex.

Mr P.R. Noblet and Miss C.J. McClung

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Noblet, of Bury, Lancashire, and Celia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas McClung, of Wester Coates, Edinburgh.

Mr J.C.F. Sjostrom and Miss N.D. Glass

The engagement is announced between Carl, son of Mr and Mrs Olof Sjostrom, of Stockholm, Sweden, and Nicola, daughter of Mr David Glass, of London, and Mrs Shirley Glass, of Marbella, Spain.

Stone tools are keys to early man's movements

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

STONE tools more than a million years old have been found in the Saudi Arabian desert, according to a recent report. Similar in form to the earliest tools from Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, the Arabian artifacts are arguably the work of *Homo erectus*, an early ancestor of modern humans.

The site of Shuwayhitiyah, in the north of the country, is the earliest, according to Professor Norman Whalen of Southwest Texas State University. More than 1,500 artefacts of chert and quartzite have been recovered, and he believes that they belong to the Developed Oldowan tradition, first identified by Louis and Mary Leakey at Olduvai.

At that site the tools may have been made by *Homo habilis*, an even earlier ancestor, but only *Homo erectus*, who first appeared around 1.6 million years ago, is known to have moved beyond Africa.

The Shuwayhitiyah tools, fairly basic choppers and cores with flakes struck from them, occur in sixteen concentrations 200 to 350 metres apart along a horseshoe-shaped alignment five kilometres (three miles) long.

Similar quartzite tools occur near Najran in the south of Saudi Arabia, buried two metres under sand, and a third site, Tathlith, has yielded what Professor Whalen defines as "a very early stage of the Acheulean, but without the usual array of hand axes, cleavers, and picks". Acheulean tools are the earliest known from most of Eurasia, including Britain, and were made between 1.5 million and 100,000 years ago.

Professor Whalen believes that the presence of very early sites in southern Arabia, together with five pre-Acheulean sites recently discovered in southern Yemen, shows that *Homo erectus* migrated from East Africa across the narrow Bab al-Mandab strait at the mouth of the Red Sea. The northern sites, together with Ubeidiyah in Israel and Sit Markho and Khattab in Syria, suggest a second route down the Nile valley and across Sinai.

So far, nearly 200 Acheulean sites have been discoverd in Saudi Arabia, mainly in the west with few on the Gulf side. They are found on alluvial fans or on terraces overlooking an ancient water source. Some 26 late Acheulean and later sites were found in the Saffaqah valley in central Arabia, dating between 250,000 and 50,000 years ago; one excavation yielded more than 11,500 artefacts.

"Arabia, humankind's doorway to the world, stands on the threshold of a golden age of archaeological discovery of sites connected with early humans, and may well emerge as the Olduvai Gorge of the 21st century". Professor Whalen says.

Source: Aramco World 43 No. 4: 16-23.

Church news

Bishop of Manchester

The Rt Rev Christopher Mayfield, Suffragan Bishop of Wolverhampton, diocese Lichfield, is to be Bishop of Manchester, succeeding the Rt Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, who has retired.

Other appointments

The Rev Tom Allen, Assistant Curate, Christ the Servant, Digmoor: to be Priest-in-charge, St Aidan, Walton (Liverpool).

The Rev Francis Ashe, Rector, Wisley w Pyrford: to be Vicar, Godalming (Guildford).

The Rev Peter Ashman, Curate, Stafford (Lichfield): to be Rector, Dymchurch Saints Peter and Paul w Burmarsh, All Saints, and Newchurch, Saints Peter and Paul (Canterbury).

The Rev Dennis Bourne, Rector, Hingham w Scoulton w Wood Rising and Rural Dean of Hingham and Mitford: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral (Norwich).

The Rev Tony Boyd, Rector, Holy Trinity, Blacon (Chester): to be Vicar, the parishes of St Chad, Farndon, and St Mary, Coddington (Chester).

The Rev Jeremy Bray, Vicar, St Peter, Chippenham: to be Vicar, St John the Divine, Fishponds (Bristol).

The Rev Christopher Briggs, Assistant Curate, Horsell, Woking (Guildford): to be Priest-in-charge, St Stephen's Chapel, Stanley, Hong Kong Island.

The Rev Keith Bristow, Assistant Curate, St Chad, Kirkby, (Liverpool): to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Portsea, Portsmouth (Portsmouth).

The Rev Ralph Broadbent, Team Vicar, Wordsley (Lichfield): to be Vicar, Wollescote (Worcester).

The Rev Michael Burgess, Rector, St Peter, Oughtrington: to be *also* Priest-in-charge, St Werburgh, Warburton (Chester).

The Rev Kenneth Burghall, Vicar, St Oswald, Lower Peover: to be *also* Priest-in-charge, St Lawrence, Over Peover (Chester).

The Rev Stephen Chaloner, Priest-in-charge, Holy Cross, Binstead and St Peter, Havenstreet, Ryde, Isle of Wight: to be Rector, Holy Cross, Binstead and St Peter, Havenstreet, Ryde, (Portsmouth).

The Rev Robert Clarke, non-stipendiary Minister, St Denys, Portswood (Winchester): to be Chaplain, in Torrevieja, Spain (Europe).

The Rev Joan Cook, SRN, Parish Deacon, St Hilda, Hartlepool: to be Deacon-in-charge, St Hilda, Hartlepool.

The Rev David Dale, Priest-in-charge, All Saints, Ryde, Isle of Wight: to be Vicar, All Saints, Ryde (Portsmouth).

The Rev Royston Davis, Team Vicar, Hugglescote w Donington, Ellistown and Snibston: to be Priest-in-charge, Gilmorton w Peatling Parva and Kimcote cum Walton (Leicester).

The Rev Roger Driver, Assistant Curate, St Peter, Woolton: to be Priest-in-charge, St Paul, Fazakerly (Liverpool).

The Rev Noelle Hall, Curate, Reculver and St Bartholomew, Herne Bay: to be Diocesan Adviser in Women's Ministry (Canterbury).

The Rev Richard Hanmer, Vicar, Eaton, Norwich: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral (Norwich).

The Rev Frank Holt, Rector, Worcester, St Clement: to be Vicar, Finstall (Worcester).

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

Keep yourselves in the love of God, and look forward to the day when our Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy will give eternal life. Jude verse 21

BIRTHS

BUSH - On December 27th at Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, to Susan (née Pratt) and Gary, a son, James Leonard.

GOWERS - On December 20th, to Emily (née Thomas) and Timothy, a son, William John (John).

JONES - On December 31st, in Seoul, to Jane (née Phillips) and Antony, a son Benjamin Luke.

DEATHS

HARDY - On December 29th 1992, Edgeley Willes Hardy, for 58 years the loving wife of Richard W. Hardy, mother of Brian, Peter and Elizabeth, and grandmother of seven grandchildren. Cremation private. Memorial service at St. Nicholas Church, Compton on Wednesday January 6th at 3pm. Donations if desired to St.Nicholas Church, Compton Charity, c/o J. Gettings & Son, Funeral Directors, 65 Hart Lane, Godalming, Surrey. Tel: 0483 416403.

HARGREAVES - On December 24th 1992 peacefully at home Alan Lawrence aged 56 years beloved husband of Joyce, dear father to Emma. Funeral service to be held at Weston-super-Mare crematorium on Tuesday 5th January 1993 at 2pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Weston Hospice c/o, Cooksley & Son, 1 Wallscote Road, Weston-super-Mare. Telephone 0934 626666

DEATHS

HENSHER - On December 30th at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, Fay Elizabeth, aged 91 years. Much loved mother of Arthur, Stanley, Alan and John, and a beloved grandmother to Andrew, Nicholas, Peter, Sarah, Carol, Jane and Henrita, died peacefully after a short illness. Funeral service Friday 8th January at St.Mary's Church, Overton Drive, Wanstead, London. E11 at 11.30. Flowers to Francis Walters, 121 High Street, Wanstead, London E11.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BUTT, MOHAMED YUSUF, 32 Old Farm Close, Hounslow, Middlesex. Died 16th August 1989. Particulars to Vijay Sharma, Solicitors, Third Floor, 142, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9TR, before 31st March 1993.

DESBOROUGH, TERENCE ROY of 238 Old Church Road, Chingford, London E4 Died on 20th February, 1992. Particulars to Chesterys Rutland & Cranford Solicitors of 378 Regents Park Road, Finchley, London, N3 1DE before 3rd March 1993.

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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AMERICAN Gentleman wishes to meet British lady. Hello my name is Steve and I would like to meet a single, never married woman who is slim and attractive, aged 18-35 who has high morals and values, does not drink or smoke, who is into health and fitness and loves the Lord. To tell you about myself I'm in my 30's, I have auburn colour hair, green eyes, 6ft 1in tall and weigh 200lbs. I work as a design engineer. I enjoy music, travel, British culture, arts, weddings out, and skiing. I would like very much to hear from you. Please send letter and photo to Stephen Gunnarsen, 49856 Freeport Road, Reckless Illinois 61072 USA

ATTRACTIVE, fun loving, prof lady, 26-35, sought by sporty, sociable, prof man, 35. Herts. Please Reply to Box No 0426

CALIFORNIAN! Retired middle-aged single non-smoker, Spanish/French/Spanish; loves Classical music. Seeks other avid quilters and one romantic lady, 28-45 for upcoming U.K./Continent holidays. Please Reply to Box No 0427

COFFEE - I've run out! Offers? Manager, n/s, 44, enjoys walks, theatre, travel. Seeks lady with sense of humour to share leisure. Hants/ Surrey. Please please to Box No 0424

EXECUTIVE, single aged 31, very shy, based in Essex with cash, wishes to meet special girl to share his life with. Only genuine replies please with photo to Box No 0291

EXPAT 42 Ns 5'11" Good appearance. Returning UK 05/94. Seeks interesting lady 28+ to share country life with, travel, walking, dining, sailing. Let's meet UK / Germany / Greece. Reply to Box No 0403

HANDSOME graduate, 28, nonsmoke v. attractive female for surprise free ski holiday, 10th Jan. Tel: 081 968 6581.

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OBITUARIES

TIMOTHY S. HEALY

Timothy S. Healy, a Jesuit priest whose secular career in American higher education and as president of New York Public Library made him a figure of constant controversy, collapsed and died at Newark Airport on December 30, aged 69. He was born in Manhattan on April 25, 1923.

THERE was little that was orthodox about Timothy Healy. Overweight, gregarious and energetic, a mover in high society who invariably dressed in civilian clothes, he often resembled a successful corporate executive rather than a Roman Catholic priest.

Yet for all his bonhomie, Healy took his religious vocation seriously, saying Mass daily and refusing to live in the sumptuous Manhattan apartment that went with his job. Instead, he alternated between a modest mid-town flat and a Jesuit residence in New York.

Many thought Healy was Irish. He was not, although with a typical sense of humour he belonged to all the Irish societies. In fact his origins were Australian, his father having gone to the United States to study petroleum engineering after fighting in the first world war. "I am probably the linear descendant of an 18th century sheep thief," he once said.

Against his parents' wishes, Healy joined the Society of Jesus when he graduated from a Jesuit high school in 1940. But it was not until 1953, after studies in Spain and Belgium and a spell as an English teacher, that he was ordained a priest. In the same year he earned a master's degree in English literature at Fordham University, another Jesuit institution where he rose rapidly to become executive vice-president.

It was in 1969, when he was chosen to become vice-chancellor of the City University of New York, that Healy began to hit the headlines. He supported a plan for open admission, guaranteeing a university place for all city high school graduates regardless of their grades and made it work in spite of strong opposition.

"Those were heady days," he said recently. "They were more fun than a barrel of monkeys. We tackled a lot of problems. We didn't solve them all, but we helped a lot of kids. It was so simple at CUNY. Your task was clear: educate the poor. And that's what we did."

Things were less simple at his next post, the presidency of Washington's Georgetown University. There, Healy found himself under fire from the political right when he worked to develop academic exchanges with communist China and when he equated Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority with the Ku Klux Klan.

The left complained when he hired Jeane Kirkpatrick and Henry Kissinger and almost everyone complained when he accepted funds from Libya to endow a chair in Arab studies. Healy gave some of the money back and was promptly labelled a "Jesuit Zionist" by one of his own history professors.

Healy's liberal freethinking did not, however, extend to moral issues. He clashed with homosexual students at Georgetown for refusing to grant official recognition and a subsidy to their campus organisation, and forced the editors of a student newspaper to drop advertisements for an abortion referral service. The gay students took him to court, and won.

Healy left Georgetown to take up the New York Public Library presidency in 1988. They got more than they bargained for. Healy raised funds, but also devoted himself to his old cause of New York's poor. "We have this unique outreach," he said last September. "We have 40 branches in neighbourhoods where junkies shoot up on the front steps while little kids run in and out with armfuls of books. We can reach that population. We've got to."

Healy was a long-time friend of President-elect Bill Clinton, himself a Georgetown graduate, who paid a tribute to him yesterday. "He was the epitome of the merging of faith and intellect," Clinton said. "A walking demonstration that there need be no conflict between the two."

Timothy Healy is survived by two sisters, and a brother living in London.

NIKITA MAGALOFF

Nikita Magaloff, the pianist, died on December 26 at Vevey, Switzerland, aged 80. He was born in St Petersburg on February 8, 1912.

NOTHING in the most challenging music of Chopin, Liszt or Prokofiev, daunted the nimble fingers of Nikita Magaloff, one of the most technically assured pianists of his generation.

If listeners sometimes looked for a more penetrating mind to be at work, they were consoled by the pianistic virtuosity on display. Magaloff presented an impassive front on the platform, seeming to be totally absorbed in executing the notes clearly and decisively.

When he was six he fled with his parents from St Petersburg to Finland, and from there to Paris where he studied at the Conservatoire with Isidore Philipp before winning that academy's Premier Prix at the age of 17.

The young man became the toast of the town. Prokofiev, himself a recent exile from Russia, gave Magaloff private lessons and Ravel sang his praises: he was on his way. He made his debut in 1937 and then appeared regularly over a long career with all the main orchestras of the world and at major festivals.

He particularly enjoyed tackling the most daunting concertos in the repertory. In recital he specialised in the works of Chopin, played complete cycles of the composer's work in many European centres, and recorded a substantial part of his repertory over a long and demanding career that lasted well into his 70s.

Latterly he had taught and given master classes throughout Europe, especially in Switzerland where he took up residence and was professor at the Geneva Conservatory from 1949.

He was married to Irene Szigeti, daughter of the famous violinist Joseph Szigeti. Early in Magaloff's career the two men formed a notable duo and made several recordings, some recently reissued on CD.

PIERRE CULLIFORD

Pierre Culliford, creator of the Smurf cartoon characters, died in Brussels on December 24 aged 64. He was born in Brussels on June 25, 1926



PIERRE Culliford was the unassuming cartoonist who created a world of paunchy elves with droopy hats. He put them in a village of mushroom-shaped huts and called them Smurfs.

Culliford, who called himself Peyo, a diminutive of his first name, died of a heart attack just weeks after the completion of his final work, a recording called *The Money Smurfs*. In failing health, he said that the album — which was the sixteenth in the Smurf series — had given him renewed hope.

The Smurfs lived a simple life in an enchanted forest and the tiny blue *homunculi* ("three apples high" by their creator's definition) were at peace with the world with the exception of the evil wizard Gargamel and his cat, Azrael.

Culliford fashioned his creatures from a cartoon strip he conceived for a Brussels film company. He called it *Johan et Pirlouit* and set it in medieval times. Known in French as *les Schtroumpfs*, the Smurfs began as extras in the strip which were then being published in a weekly magazine.

In 1957, in what proved to be an incredibly poor prophecy, Culliford said: "Three years from now, no one will talk about them any more."

Smurfs now have fans all over the world and are known by such varied names as Smurfies in South Africa, Strunfs in Brazil and Iah-Shin-lings in China. They even speak their own language, often using the word "smurf" as an all-purpose verb or noun — as in "let's smurf on over" or "all for smurf and smurf for all". They made Culliford a millionaire.

He said he decided to colour the Smurfs blue because it this was a child's colour. He rejected yellow because it reminded him of illness, and red because he thought it too violent.

When the Smurfs were at the peak of their popularity, a psychologist declared: "The Smurf is a relief from the steady diet of mystery stories and superheroes that dominate children's television and the public, both adult and child, react favourably towards this phenomenon."

One of the few Smurf projects that failed was a theme park which opened near Metz in northern France in 1981 and has since closed.

Culliford is survived by his wife and two children.

EDMUND HORDERN

Edmund Hordern, test pilot, aircraft designer, aviator and farmer, has died aged 88. He was born in Singleton, Sussex, on June 3, 1904

ONE of the great aviators of the 1930s, who flew safaris in Africa for the Blixens and pioneered air transport in the Middle East, Edmund Hordern had been fascinated from childhood by everything mechanical — and especially aircraft. As a boy he would bicycle to the nearest aerodrome whenever possible and become involved with whatever was going on.

Educated at Winchester College, he went to Cranwell and was commissioned, having obtained his wings, in July 1925. He joined No 17 Fighter Squadron where he flew Moths, Sopwith Snipes and Hawker Woodcocks. In 1927 he went to the Central Flying School, for which he played cricket, and Cambridge University Air Squadron as an instructor.

In the RAF he failed to find the excitement he sought and at the end of 1929 he retired and joined Freddy Guest and his firm National Flying Services to develop air links between Northern and Southern Rhodesia, Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda from the Zambesi to the Nile. The job involved flying over treacherous terrain and finding suitable landing sites and emergency landing strips.

Hordern took part in an inaugural display by the Ariel Club of East Africa and the *East African Standard* recorded: "A wonderful display of stunting was given by Flying Officer Hordern ... during which he looped, spun, rolled, side slipped and nose dived in masterly fashion. Before landing he gave an exhibition of crazy flying a few feet from the ground."

This was high adventure and well suited to the calm and precision with which he liked to plan his activities. His travels took him to Arusha, Mombasa, Aden, Luxor, Heliopolis and Amman from where he was able to take aerial photographs. He flew safaris for the Blixens and many other settlers of the *White Mischief* era.

This was an exciting period of fast cars and high life and as a tall, good looking and proficient pilot Hordern had many close friends including Dermot Boyle, later to be Chief of Air Staff, Mouse Fielden later to be Captain of the Queen's Flight and many others.

On returning to England he became the personal pilot for prominent people including Norman Holden whom he flew around Europe, sometimes in a twin-engined Cutty Sark amphibian aircraft.

In 1931, together with J.E. Doran Webb, he formed the Wiltshire School of Flying at Salisbury. He had long held the belief that anyone could fly and that flying should not cost more than running a car. Several well-known students went through the flying school, where instruction was in Moths and Redwings.

At the end of 1933 he was asked to join British Aircraft as chief pilot. This company, which became the British Klemm Aeroplane Company, had the manufacturing rights for the German Klemm monoplane and later that year Hordern took the first British Klemm Swallow for its test flight.

Over the next few months the plane was extensively demonstrated. *The Aeroplane* reported: "Mr Hordern persuaded the machine to fly so slowly that it was overtaken by a galloping horse. The demonstration of flying by Mr Hordern was ... perfect. Mr Hordern was one of the best pilots in the Air Force and in his hands the B K Swallow seemed ... like a well behaved bird. It flew fast or crawled and landed with a lightness and precision of which any bird would be proud."

This remarkable aircraft was offered with a British Salmson motor at £675. In 1935 Hordern joined Heston Aircraft as test pilot and test flew the famous Heston Phoenix. This was a remarkable high-wing four seater monoplane and probably the first aircraft with a retractable undercarriage.

It was at this time that Hordern joined his boyhood friend Freddy, Duke of Richmond and designed a small twin-engined aircraft quite unlike anything else ever produced.

The brief was to produce an ultra-safe lightweight plane that anyone could fly.It accommodated pilot and co-pilot side by side with a large luggage space behind which incorporated a jump seat.

It had folding wings and its twin controls incorporated a ring like a small steering wheel on top of the control column to operate the rudder. This did away with the need for rudder bars, and so allowed the travellers to wrap rugs around their legs to keep warm. It had superb vision and on its maiden flight in October 1936 it flew "very nicely". It was extremely stable and docile, climbed like a Klemm and could maintain height on one engine.

Maximum speed was about 100mph and stall was at about 35mph with no adverse wing dropping tendencies. Originally it was intended that the plane should be fitted with aerial square four (motorcycle) engines, but at the last moment Continental engines from America were fitted. The plane, which had short takeoff and landing capabilities, was an ideal commuter plane.

The Hordern Richmond Aircraft Company was set up as manufacturer of the plane, but plans were interrupted by the second world war.

Richmond went into the RAF while Hordern stayed with the company, developing and producing hydrulignum propellors. These were used on many aircraft during the war and had weight advantages over more conventional Duralumin blades. During this time Hordern tested the propellers in aircraft including the Hurricane and the Curtis Wright Tomahawk. The company was finally taken over by Rotol and became Rotol Air Screws Ltd.

Edmund Hordern left the firm in 1944 to become a farmer. He took the first herd of Jersey cattle to Ireland and became a well-known breeder. In 1954 he was still flying his own Miles Witney Straight and could often be seen flying around the Southampton area. He had flown more than 50 different types of aircraft and test flown at least 29 types.

He was born and grew up on the Sussex Downs and was a great countryman and an authority on birds. He married Patricia Sainsbury in 1958 and for the past 13 years lived near Salisbury.

FATHER ARTHUR McCORMACK

Father Arthur McCormack, Roman Catholic priest and expert on world population, died on December 11, 1992, aged 81. He was born on 16 August, 1911.

THE highpoint of Father McCormack's influence, at least within his own church, came when he served as one of the *periti*, or advisers, at the Second Vatican Council of the early 1960s.

As an expert student of world population problems, he played an important part in directing the attention of the council and Pope Paul VI to the urgency of addressing the challenge of world poverty and hunger. He later found that his views brought him into conflict with the Vatican; but he remained widely respected in Catholic circles, and admired and loved by many friends as a conscientious and dedicated priest.

Born in Liverpool, McCormack attended St Francis Xavier's College and the colleges of the Mill Hill Missionaires in London and Holland. He was ordained a priest in July 1936.

His early years as a missionary in West Africa (in the then British Cameroons) profoundly influenced McCormack's outlook. He saw the realities of life for people in a Third World country, and his love for the Cameroons and for his old friends from Sasse College, where he taught, lasted all his life.

Because of poor health, he returned to England in the late 1940s and immediately took up the study that was to be his prime interest for the rest of his life: world poverty and its relation to population growth.

The publication of the United Nations censuses of world population in the early 1960s changed the thinking of many demographers and McCormack reached the position he was to hold for the next 30 years: that it was impossible without risking disaster to allow the world's population to go on growing, checked only by the decrease of fertility that comes with economic development. He wanted the church authorities to show a keener awareness of population growth and to reflect on the implications for people's lives in desperately poor countries of the Catholic condemnation of artificial birth control.

At the third session of the Vatican Council in 1964, McCormack organised a meeting in Rome which had far-reaching consequences. He brought together a group that included Barbara Ward, Mgr Gremillion (an American writer on world poverty), and Mgr Liguti (Vatican observer to the Food and Agriculture Organisation). The result was to canalise the wish of the council for a World Poverty Secretariat into a specific recommendation, drafted by McCormack, calling on the church to set up an organisation to promote progress in the world's poorer areas and to foster social justice between the nations.

Following the report, Pope Paul VI published his apostolic letter *Catholicam Christi Ecclesiam* on January 7, 1967. He then decided to establish the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace. Mgr Gremillion was named secretary, and McCormack joined him as his assistant the following April. He remained there for six years until it became clear that his views on the problems of world population were an embarrassment to the Holy See.

From 1971-5 McCormack was consultant to Carrio Flores, Secretary General of the UN World Population Congress in Bucharest. He was a member of the delegation of non-governmental organisation to the Mexico City population conference in August 1984, to which he gave the concluding address. He published five books and many articles on Third World development and population.

McCormack never wavered in his faith but he will be remembered, perhaps above all, for his role as a member of the loyal Oppposition within his own church.

APPRECIATIONS

Cardew Robinson



YOUR obituary of Cardew Robinson (December 28) was informative and perceptive. He was, indeed, "a quiet, studious man whose private face belied his public appearance". An actor and comedian, he also loved writing and he was always a loyal supporter of his old school, Harrow County School for Boys.

He always attributed any success in writing to his English master there, Sidney Fooks who, last August, celebrated his 100th birthday. It was characteristic of Cardew's generous spirit that he should last summer have visited Sidney Fooks on his 100th birthday.

Nothing was too much trouble for Cardew where the service of his old school was concerned. Whether joining in our celebrations at the Diamond Jubilee in 1971 with an inimitable entertainment, or giving practical sympathy when the future of the school was at stake in the political ferment of secondary reorganisation, he was always admired by everyone associated with Harrow County Boys' School, and inspired great affection and respect.

Roy Avery
Headmaster, Harrow County Boys School 1965-75.

Baron de Courcel

YOUR excellent obituary of Baron Geoffroy de Courcel (December 12) never made quite enough of those two poignant days in 1940, June 17-18, when Charles de Gaulle established himself at a stroke as the fulcrum of Free French resistance. He was 49, "a man chosen by fate".

The aircraft at Bordeaux was provided by Major-General Sir Edward Spears, Churchill's personal representative to the French government at the time and, from July 1940, head of the British mission to General de Gaulle. Only two Frenchmen were on that flight, de Gaulle and de Courcel.

De Courcel recalled that on the plane the general was lost in thought. His mind was already on that first and greatest speech he would make the following day — Waterloo Day, although he hardly realised that! The speech imprinted itself upon the heart of France and has since been set out in full on monuments.

The BBC gave him five-minute broadcasts twice a day to France and de Courcel, who became *chef de cabinet* in London, helped him to polish these influential signals. Where Churchill could speak on the radio in flowing phrases, de Gaulle had only minutes since the cost of listening could have been torture or death.

Alberic Stacpoole, OSB

William Temple

AFTER his repatriation from Germany during the second world war, Bill Temple (obituary, December 3) was first employed as an instructor at the School of Military Engineering. One knee had been shattered and rigidly reset so that he could not bend his leg. He was popular with everyone but the only form of social transport at the school at the time was the bicycle.

Always undaunted, he used to place his damaged leg on the handlebar and pedal with the other. Effective on the level and downhill, he was gravely disadvantaged up gradients: so his friends developed a technique of coming up behind him and giving him a push.

He spoke kindly of his medical treatment by his captors. He was placed in a ward with young wounded German officers and, he said, was treated equally with them.

H. M. Hughes

Church services tomorrow

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL. Clwyd: 11 Choral Euch, Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd), A New Year Carol (Britten). Rev Canon H Lloyd.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch, Darke in F, Nunc Dimittis (Dyson in F), Resonet in laudibus (Handl). Rt Rev Michael Whitney; 4 Choral E. Responses (Reading). Stanford in C, Lullay myn liking (Holst).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 Sung Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Virgin's Cradle Song (Rubbra). The Archdeacon; 3.15 E. Responses (Lazell), Ireland in F, What sweeter music (Rutter); 6.30 Sermon & Compline, Rev D S Naumann.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany (St Erasmus Chapel); 8 HC; 10 Family Euch. Rutter and Stanford in B flat, Infant Holy (arr. Wilcocks). Rev Peter Richard Inwood; 11.30 Choral M. Responses (Smith), Te Deum (Stanford in B flat, Jubilate, The Nativity Carol (Rutter), Canon Michael Rees. 3.30 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES. Canon Michael Rees.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Sung Euch. St Alban's Mass (Rildon), Te Deum in B flat (Stanford). The three Kings (Cornelius). Canon Rose; 3.45 E. Preces (Smith), Dyson in D, Evening Hymn (Balfour-Gardiner).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 Sung Euch. Trumpet Voluntary (Stanley), Setting (Ireland in C), De Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy (arr. Sargent), The Treasure: Grand Choeur No.1 in C (Franck); 4 Choral E. I saw a maiden (arr. Pritchard), O Jesu Christ, light of my life (Harg-Elert); Responses (Ayleward), Lord's Prayer (Farmer), Setting (Stanford in B flat, Mary had a Baby (arr. Sargent, Closing Responses (Knight), Now thank we all our God (Harg-Elert).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 & 12.30 HC; 9.30 Sung Euch, Merbecke. The Procession; 11.15 M; 3.45 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M. Responses (Shimonin), Te Deum, Benedictus (Stanford in B flat), Rev John Halfhuniun; 11.30 HC. Missa Bella amfitrit'altera (Lassus), Omnes de Saba (Handl); 3.15 E. Stanford in A. Now when Jesus was born, Where is the new-born King, Glory be to God (Bach Christmas Oratorio), Rev David Wilson.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Dundee: 8 HC; 9.40 Sung Communion; 11 Sung Euch, Rt Rev L Luscombe; 6.30 Sung E. Prof P Stoward.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 3 Children's Society Christingle Service.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC; 11 Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), A maiden most gentle (Carter), From Virgin's womb this Christmas Day did spring (Gibbons), Canon Roy White; 3 E. St Paul's Service (Howells), Lully, lulla (Leighton). The Provost.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 10 M, Rev Paul Bates; 11 Sung Euch (St Margaret's Church), Rev Jeremy Caddick; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Rev Anthony Harvey; 3 E, Canon Stephen Platten; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES, Rev Paul Bates.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Masses 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30 & 7; 10.30 SM with carols; 10 MP; 3.30 Solemn V & B.

YORK MINSTER: 8 & 8.45 HC; 10 Sung Euch, Unto you I came from heaven (Vann), Missa Sancti Johannis de Deo (Haydn), Tantum ergo sacramentum (Fletcher), Canon John Fry; 11.30 M, Responses (Leighton), Te Deum in C (Stanford), Jubilate Deo (Jackson); 4 E, Jumsion in A, A spotless rose (Howells), Rev David Wilbourne.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 Sung Euch, Stanford in C, Rev J R W Stott.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 Sung Euch, Byrd three-part. The Chaplain.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: Services resume 10 January.

GUARDS' CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC: Rejoice and be merry, Mass in F (Darke), A sound of Angels (Tye), Nunc Dimittis, Rev F R Joyce, La Rejouissance (Handel), Band of the Scots Guards.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Five Voices (Byrd), There is no rose (Joubert); 3.30 E. Balulalow (Malcolm Archer), Arnold in A. Angels from the realms of glory (arr. Lloyd).

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 & 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Mass in G (Schubert), Quem vidistis pastores (Poulenc), The Vicar; 6 E & B, Blair in B minor, A maiden most gentle (arr. Carter), Rev C A Jones.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 Sung Euch, Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria), The Shepherd's farewell (Berlioz).

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch; 6.30 Choral E.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Octavi Toni (Lassus), Nunc Dimittis (Murrill in E), When Mary to the Temple went, Rev D Mackenzie.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 Sung Euch, Ashfield in C, New Year Carol (Britten), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 Sung Euch, Mass for three voices (Rubbra), How far is it to Bethlehem (arr. Wilcocks), Rev Ben Galloway; 6 Choral E & Ministry of Healing, Short Service (Farrant) What cheer (Walton), Rev Barrie Newman.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 & 12.15; 10.30 Sung Euch, Lully, lulla (Leighton), Fantasie Adieux, Fideles (Hakim), Rev D Watson; 6.30 E, O little one sweet (Bach), Rev S Acland.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10 Family C, 11 Sung Euch, Missa Secunda (Hassler), Angels Carol (Rutter), Rev Tom Devonshire Jones.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, The Vicar; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Rev Martin Henwood; 12.30 HC; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev Gilbert Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES, The Vicar.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9 & 9.45 LM; 11 High Mass, Missa Puer natus est pro nobis (Guerrero), Canon Peter Pilkington; 6 Solemn E & B; 7 LM.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Dixit Maria (Hassler), The Shepherd's Farewell (Berlioz), Rev Richard McLaren; 6.30 Ministry of Healing, The Rector.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8 & 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Missa à 4 (Monteverdi), Nativity Carol (Rumer), Bethlehem Down (Warlock), Rev Christopher Courtauld.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch, 11 Sung Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Fr Desmond Tillyer.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev James MacDonald, General Secretary, British Sailors Society; 6.30 Rev Eleanor J McMahon.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev Bruce Neill; 12.15 HC. No Evening Service.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Mass for four voices (Byrd), Lisse book lullaby (Bailey), O little one sweet (Bach).

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Hodie Christus natus est (Palestrina), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, O beatam et sacrosanctum diem (Phillips).

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 Plainsong Mass.

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev J Schmidt.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Tom Brisch, UK Council for Overseas Students Affairs; 7 Choral Mass, Missa St Aloysii for women's voices (Haydn), Rev Ronald T Englund.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev Nicholas Gumbel; 11 Informal Service (Creche and Children's Church), Mr Jeremy Jennings; 6.30 Informal Service, Mr Michael Coates.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 Covenant Service & 6.30 Rev Dr R John Tudor.

HEATHROW NOW IN USE

From Our Aeronautical Correspondent

HEATHROW, Jan. 1

Lord Winster, Minister of Civil Aviation, Mr. Ivor Thomas, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, and Sir William Hildred, Director-General of Civil Aviation, were among the big crowd at Heathrow, the new London airport now under construction near Hounslow, to see the first civil aeroplane take off from the 3,000-yard main runway to-day. The aircraft was the Lancastrian Star Light, which is making the first of a series of proving flights in preparation for a new service to Buenos Aires.

Captained by Air Vice-Marshal D.C.T. Bennett, former head of the R.A.F. Pathfinder Force, the Lancaster is travelling *via* Lisbon, Bathurst, Natal (Brazil), Rio de Janeiro, and Montevideo, carrying a crew of eight and 10 passengers, including officials of British South American Airways, who are to operate the service. It also carried copies of to-day's edition of *The Times* for delivery to the British Ambassadors in the various countries at which refuelling stops are to be made, to the Governor at Bathurst, and to the editors of 16 South American newspapers. The aircraft is expected to arrive at Buenos Aires to-morrow evening after spending about 35 hours in the air.

LORD WINSTER, wishing the passengers and crew *bon voyage*, said that the Lancastrian was taking off from the finest runway in the world, and when Heathrow was completed neither Idlewild (the new airport for New York) nor any other aerodrome would be superior to it. This aeroplane, with its beautiful name of Star Light, would be a symbol of Britain's determination to regain its place in the markets of the world, to use the air as the means of cultivating good relations with other nations, and to cultivate with them the art of peace. This flight was the first step towards establishing, at no distant date, a swift and regular British air service to South America. Air Vice-Marshal Bennett and his crew were truly ambassadors, representing the spirit and determination of Britain to play the same leading part in the air as it had always played on the sea.

Heathrow airport is rapidly taking shape and gives promise of being first-class in all respects. The main runway, 3,000 yards long and 100 yards wide, is complete: the second, 2,000 yards in length and 100 yards wide, is three-quarters made: and the third, the same size as the second, is quarter-made. All runways are expected to be in service by the summer. The main runway traverses the site of a Celtic temple dating from between 500 and 300 B.C., and in the course of excavations many interesting relics have been discovered. All the runways are stressed to support aircraft of up to 360,000 lbs. all-up weight——as heavy as any likely to be made for some years.

The airport is two and a half miles in length, covering an area of 1,500 acres, and from one end to the other there is a difference in level of only 5ft. There is ample room for further extension westwards should the need arise.

ON THIS DAY

January 2 1946



The first civil aircraft to take off from the main runway at Heathrow, as it was called, was a Lancastrian. The captain was Air Vice-Marshal D.C.T. Bennett former head of the RAF Pathfinder Force.

NEWS

Major promises decade of growth

■ John Major held out the prospect of a decade of growth for Britain as he delivered a confident prediction that 1993 would be a year of recovery. He emphasised his determination to take a grip on the domestic agenda.

The prime minister suggested that a successful 1993 could pave the way for a re-creation of prosperity and sounded his most upbeat note about business and industry..... Page 1

Clinton plans first week Bosnia action

■ The Pentagon is drawing up plans that would allow Bill Clinton to order US forces to intervene in Bosnia within a week of assuming the presidency. A unilateral enforcement of the air exclusion zone is being considered ..... Page 1

A battle lost

As children at a Somalian orphanage prepared flowers to welcome the new hope brought by President Bush, one young boy lost his long, doughty fight against death..... Page 1

Plea bargaining

A formal system of plea-bargaining, in which the judge would tell the defendant his likely sentence discount if he pleaded guilty, is to be recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice when it reports this year ..... Pages 1, 2

Zoo victim stable

Ben Silcock, the man who was mauled when he jumped into the lion compound at London zoo to feed them chickens, is mentally ill, his father said.Mr Silcock, 27, of Roehampton, southwest London, is in a serious but stable condition..... Page 3

Safety move

British airports are to be fitted with new equipment to detect windshear, the rapidly changing and potentially dangerous surface winds, following a near disaster to a British Airways turbo-prop aircraft with similarities to last month's crash at Faro in Portugal..... Page 4

Home library

A quiet revolution is taking place in the way libraries and publishers operate which means that the public may never need to visit libraries. Instead, readers will "visit" libraries via their personal computer ..... Page 5

Peace promise

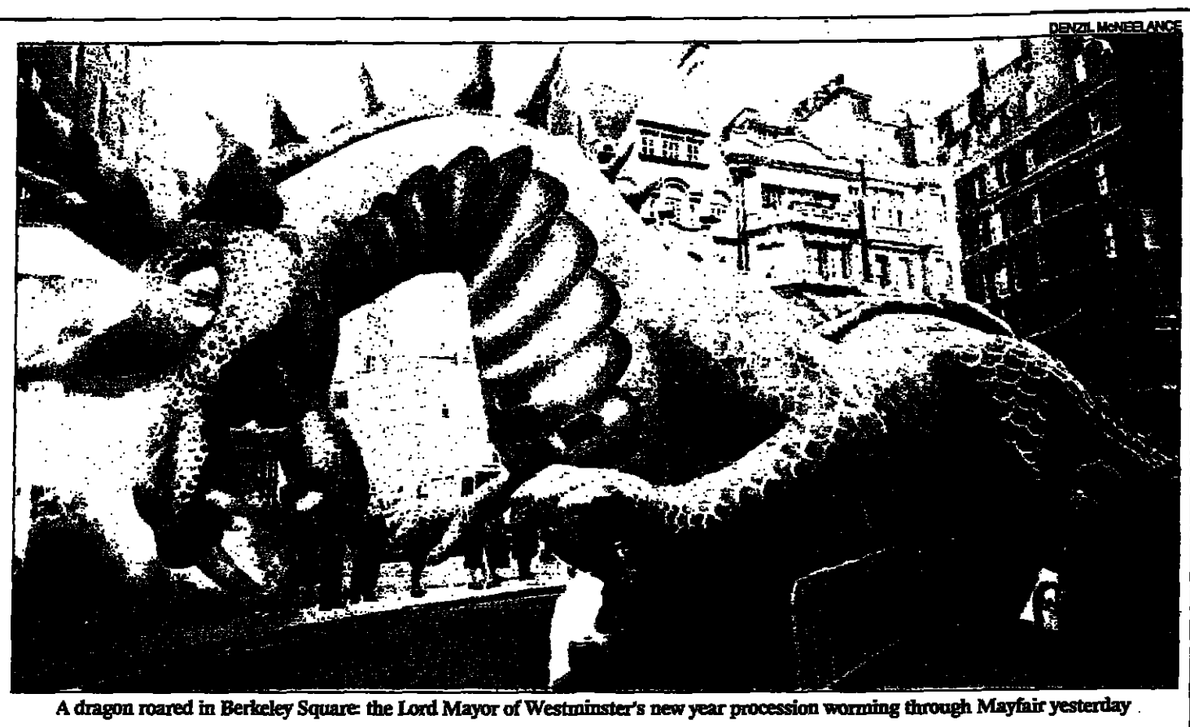
Vaclav Klaus, prime minister of the new-born Czech Republic, insisted that his government would do all it could to ensure that relations with Slovakia were smooth..... Page 7

Moi warning

President Moi of Kenya accused the opposition of pushing the country towards civil war and condemned an opposition refusal to accept election results, in which he took an unassailable lead in the race ..... Page 10

A user's guide to the single market

■ Somewhere between the agony and the ecstasy generated by closer ties with the Continent lies the probable attitude of most British people towards integration: benign but sceptical indifference. As the EC enters an era of new unity, Michael Dynes charts the opportunities and pitfalls..... Page 6



DENZIL McNEELANCE

A dragon roared in Berkeley Square: the Lord Mayor of Westminster's new year procession worming through Mayfair yesterday

Collective wisdom: The Seven Wise Men who were set up by the Chancellor as an independent economic advisory panel after sterling fell out of the ERM are almost unanimous in expecting further interest rate cuts this year ..... Page 32

Profile: Peter Morgan, director-general of the Institute of Directors, warns against any suggestion that taxes should be raised in 1993 ..... Page 31

Tips for '93: Tempus sees the new year as a time for confidence and recovery for shares in some household names..... Page 32

Survival: Eighteen years ago Brian Clough took charge of Nottingham Forest for a third round FA Cup match against Tottenham. Facing relegation from the Premier League, Forest play Southampton and Clough's survival could depend on the result..... Page 19

Food and drink: Frances Bissell offers practical advice on kitchen basics for the budget-conscious. And with Burns night coming, it is time to prepare the haggis, the neeps and the tatties..... Pages 6, 7

TV review: Nigella Lawson considers the story of Enid Blyton and her flight into fantasy..... Page 16

Baroque around the clock: Philip Pickett, early-music scholar and performer, launches a new series of period-instrument concerts on the South Bank in London with an evening of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, played with one instrument to a part ..... Page 13

Curtis collected: The genius of soul singer Curtis Mayfield, paralysed from the neck downwards after an accident in 1990, is celebrated on a new compilation album bringing together 70 minutes of his best tracks..... Page 13

Jumbo crossword: Win £50 in the new year puzzle..... Page 10

Capitalism rules: George Walker, former multi-millionaire, East End boxer and gangster's minder, is now seeking a new fortune amid the green shoots of capitalism in the born-again Russia..... Page 4

Lure of crime: A third of British males are convicted of a non-motoring criminal offence by the time they are 30. Is there a way of diverting them onto the paths of righteousness?..... Page 10

Craft and beauty: Despite industrialisation, mechanisation, information technology and virtual reality, craft is still out there, nailing something real..... Page 14

Jonathan Meades: Rsetaurants and bars are, in this country, adjuncts of the fashion industry, and theyknow a good line in desolation when they see it..... Page 22

Clement Freud: Preparing a dish for Spike Milligan, that "respectable Home Counties septuagenerian"..... Page 23

DANIEL JOHNSON

In the hands of a great master such as Gibbon, the footnote (like the title page, the preface and the dedication before it) could become a minor literary form in its own right..... Page 12

ALAN CLARK

It is a sad tale. A heroic moment, whose importance can never be measured, then the inexorable decline — downhill all the way from one miscalculation to another — of the Churchill premiership. A pied piper's trail of opportunity discarded, needless abasement endured, and a grievous ransom paid in blood and treasure..... Page 12

ALAN COREN

After discussing his woes with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "the sap" has suggestions for the regulation of credit-checking agencies

Weekend, page 5

The swansong for P D James' laconic sleuth Adam Dalgleish, sees him delving into a murderous literary circle amid the wastes of the Suffolk coast (ITV, 9.05pm)

Weekend, Page 14

Janus faces of Hurd

Clear answers are needed from the British government on whether, and if so in what circumstances, aggression in Europe is to be rewarded, and what sacrifices it is prepared to ask the British people to make for peace ... Bill Clinton, the incoming US president, is entitled to expect more of the special relationship than Mr Hurd's displays of ambivalence..... Page 13

New broadcasting map

As ITV seeks bigger audiences, the role of the BBC will be crucial to the new map of British broadcasting. Mr Birt's success in winning the argument for the BBC's unique mission could within five years be the only justification for the licence fee..... Page 13

Pro libris

Scientists are conspiring to make the bookshelf and the card-index obsolete, replacing them with databases which scholars, bookworms and browsers can consult on computer screens. The microchip may add to the nation's literary pleasures; but the English bookworm is not about to turn..... Page 13

Foxhunting enthusiasts write that their activity is necessary and well regulated..... Page 13

A certain number of Slovak politicians are resolutely westward looking, and Austria is very nearby. The desire to enlarge the European Community can act with this as a factor in encouraging Slovak leaders to accommodate minorities

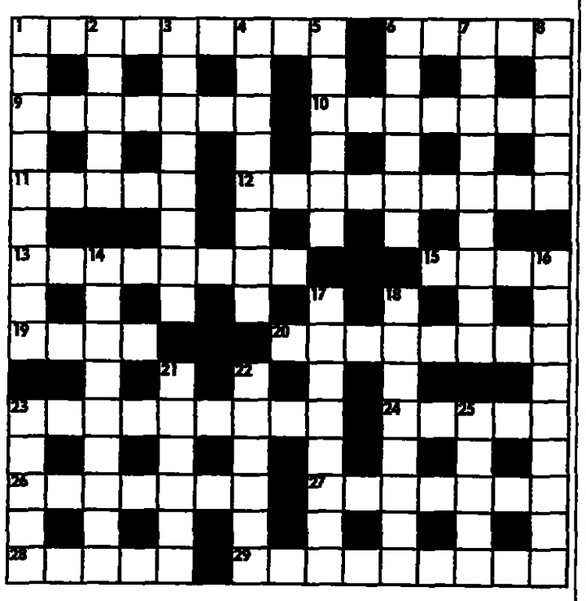
— *Le Monde*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,117

PARKER DUOFOLD

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....



ACROSS

1 Yob, for example, will approve of non-U language (4,5).
6 Sulks, having disease (5).
9 Separate from Anglo-Saxon subordinate (7).
10 Urged on to travel for experience (7).
11 Start to sell fruit, and some asparagus (5).
12 Breathe in, out, but don't wake up (9).
13 A local politician has eccentric attire (8).
15 Fail to take tin-opener, so eat less (4).
19 Trollope's lily of the valley? (4).
20 Bird in summer diving in the river (8).
23 Chant after Julian (9).
24 Tribesmen's qualifications excellent (5).
26 Cumberland tradesman (7).
27 Some fear a chess problem may give a pain in the head (7).
28 Prior or Presbyter (5).
29 Percentage made from connections in high places? (9).

DOWN

1 Players never asked to take a bow? (5,4)
2 Heard fire — it drops a man (5).
3 Roman bathhouse had to shut out Veronica (8).
4 An annual payment for this land? (8).
5 Unclean food to hand (6).
6 New way to join the Navy (6).
7 Fat horse, fed with poor grain (9).
8 Addressed the bar (5).
14 Called for calm (9).
16 Delay, so movie star eats in (9).
17 Risk transportation from court (8).
18 Consolation over exam that may be over one's head (8).
21 Protect Shakespeare's Fairy Queen (6).
22 Glass-paper (6).
23 Half-hearted, unintelligible words from actor (5).
25 Black Sea resort, so absurdly pretty? Not half! (5).

The Jumbo Crossword with concise clues is on page 10 of the Weekend section

Solution to Puzzle No 19,111

L	I	B	R	A	R	Y		S	A	T	I	R	I	C
E		I		L		O		H		O		A		O
T	R	O	O	P		G	O	O	D	W	I	V	E	S
H		M		E		A		P		I		I		T
A	V	A	U	N	T		P	L	E	T	H	O	R	A
R		S		H		P		I		L				
G	E	S	S	O		R	I	F	L	E	B	I	R	D
I		R		E		T		I		I				
C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E		R	A	C	E	S
		O				O		R		E		I		A
P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E		I	N	S	T	E	P
O		A		A		I		B		I		A		P
W	A	T	E	R	H	O	L	E		C	A	D	R	E
E		O		E		U		T		O		E		A
R	E	R	E	D	O	S		H	A	N	D	L	E	R

Solution to Puzzle No 19,116

P	A	L	A	T	A	B	L	E		S	E	P	A	L
O		E		H		A		F		I		L		E
L	E	A	G	U	E	R		F	O	N	D	A	N	T
E		R		R		B		E		N		T		U
M	A	N	E	S		I	N	T	H	E	S	O	U	P
I				D		C		E		R		N		
C	A	S	T	A	W	A	Y			T	I	F	F	
A		T		Y		N		T		P		S		O
L	E	A	T				C	A	N	I	S	T	E	R
		T		D		G		I		T				E
W	H	I	T	E	H	A	L	L		T	A	C	K	S
A		O		A		L		S		A		L		T
G	E	N	E	R	A	L		P	A	N	D	O	R	A
O		E		T		I		C		V		L		
N	O	R	T	H		C	O	N	G	E	R	E	E	L

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: R Weatherburn, Wood Lane, Dagenham, Essex; D H Laverty, Inglemere Close, Arnside, near Carnforth, Lancashire; M Brown, Wychwood Avenue, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands; C M Wyatt, Baronsmede, London; J Gray, Wharfedale Green, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear.

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Freezing fog will be slow to clear over much of central, southern and eastern England, and may linger all day. Wales and western counties of England will remain dry with clear or sunny intervals, but it will feel chilly. A cloudy day over Scotland and Northern Ireland with rain affecting many areas at first. Outlook: cold and breezy, with outbreaks of rain spreading across the country, preceded by sleet or snow in places.

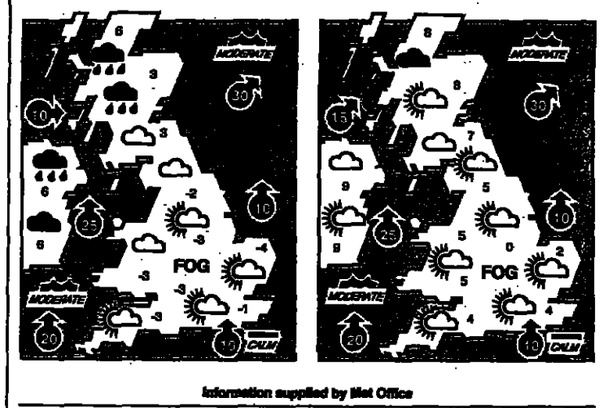
MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	s	Madrid	3	37	s
Alicante	15	59	f	Majorca	13	55	s
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Malaga	13	55	f
Algiers	14	57	s	Malta	15	59	f
Amst'dm	-1	30	s	Melb'rne	29	84	s
Athens	9	48	r	Mexico C*	16	61	s
Bahrain	15	59	c	Miami*	28	79	f
Bangkok	30	86	s	Milan	1	34	s
Barbados*	27	81	c	Montreal*	-4	25	d
Barcelona	7	45	s	Moscow	-19	-2	c
Beirut	16	61	s	Munich	-3	27	s
Belgrade	-5	23	sn	Naples	11	52	s
Berlin	-4	25	s	N Delhi	25	77	s
Bermuda*	22	72	f	N York*	12	54	c
Biarritz	7	45	c	Nice	11	52	s
Borde'x	7	45	s	Oslo	2	36	c
Brussels	-4	25	fg	Paris	-4	25	c
Budapst	-4	25	s	Peking	3	37	s
B Aires*	24	75	c	Perth	22	72	f
Cairo	21	70	s	Prague	-5	23	f
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Reykjavik	-4	25	c
Chicago*	-5	21	c	Rhodes	14	57	f
Ch'church	14	57	c	Rio de J	33	91	s
Cologne	1	34	s	Riyadh	13	55	f
Cyphgn	1	34	s	Rome	11	52	s
Corfu	13	55	f	Salzburg	-4	25	s
Dublin	10	50	f	S Frisco*	11	52	c
Dubrownik	8	46	s	Santiago*	29	84	s
Faro	13	55	s	S Paulo*	31	88	s
Florence	6	43	s	Seoul	4	39	s
Frankfurt	-1	30	s	Sing'por	29	84	f
Funchal	16	61	c	St'kholm	1	34	c
Geneva	-1	30	c	Strasb'rg	-3	27	s
Gibraltar	13	55	s	Sydney	27	81	s
Helsinki	-1	30	sn	Tangier	16	61	f
Innsbruck	-6	21	c	Tel Aviv	16	61	s
Istanbul	4	39	r	Tenerife	20	68	s
Jeddah	28	82	s	Tokyo	10	50	s
Jo'burg*	22	72	s	Toronto*	3	37	c
Karachi	29	84	f	Tunis	15	59	c
L Palmas	19	66	f	Valencia	10	50	s
Le Touqt	-3	26	s	Venice**	9	18	s
Lisbon	8	46	s	Venice	3	37	s
Locarno	3	37	f	Vienna	-5	23	f
London	6	43	f	Warsaw	-7	19	s
L Angels*	13	55	s	Wash'ton*	16	61	f
Luxembg	-2	28	s	Wel'ton	16	61	s
Luxor	23	73	s	Zurich	-5	23	c

* denotes figures are latest available

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.2	-	5	41	bright
Anglesey	2.3	0.09	8	46	bright
Aviemore	3.8	-	5	41	bright
Belfast	4.9	-	5	41	sunny
Birmingham	1.9	-	6	43	cloudy
Bournemouth	-	0.01	6	43	dull
Bristol	0.4	-	6	43	cloudy
Buxton	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Cardiff	0.7	-	6	43	cloudy
Clacton	4.4	-	5	41	bright
Cromer	3.0	-	3	37	sunny
Douglas	4.0	-	7	45	bright
Edinburgh	4.5	-	6	43	bright
Eskdalemuir	-	-	3	37	fog
Exmouth	0.3	-	7	45	cloudy
Falmouth	3.6	-	10	50	bright
Folkestone	4.9	0.02	6	43	sunny
Glasgow	3.2	0.01	6	43	bright
Guernsey	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Hastings	1.0	-	7	45	bright
Hunstanton	-	-	3	37	dull
Jersey	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Kinloss	5.1	-	7	45	sunny
Leeds	-	-	6	43	cloudy
Lerwick	2.0	-	6	43	bright
Littlehampton	-	-	7	45	dull
Liverpool	0.3	-	4	39	cloudy
London	-	-	7	45	dull
Lowestoft	2.0	-	4	39	bright
Manchester	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Mirrlehead	0.6	-	7	45	cloudy
Morecambe	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Newcastle	4.3	-	6	43	bright
Newquay	3.6	-	9	48	sunny
Nottingham	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Penzance	3.4	-	11	52	bright
Plymouth	0.6	-	7	45	cloudy
Poole	-	0.02	6	43	dull
Prestwick	4.3	-	6	43	bright
Staunton Snd	0.5	-	7	45	bright
Scarborough	0.3	-	3	37	cloudy
Scilly Isles	6.3	-	10	50	sunny
Shanklin	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Southsea	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Stornoway	0.5	0.09	7	45	shower
Swansea	-	0.01	6	43	fog
Teignmouth	0.3	-	6	43	cloudy
Tenby	3.2	0.01	8	46	bright
Thurso	1.7	0.16	7	45	rain
Torquay	0.7	-	7	45	bright
Weymouth	4.3	0.01	9	48	bright
Wick	4.7	-	6	43	sunny

X denotes not available



Information supplied by Met Office

London 4.04 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 7.16 pm to 5.13 am
Edinburgh 3.51 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 4.02 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.32 pm to 8.21 am

TODAY

Sun rises: 8.06 am — Sun sets: 4.04 pm
Moon sets 1.33 am — Moon rises 11.31 pm

Full Moon January 8
London 4.05 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 7.16 pm to 5.15 am
Edinburgh 3.52 pm to 8.43 am
Manchester 4.03 pm to 8.26 am
Penzance 4.33 pm to 8.21 am

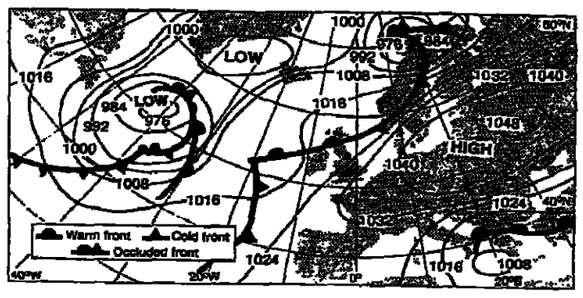
TOMORROW

Sun rises: 8.05 am — Sun sets: 4.05 pm
Moon sets 2.42 am — Moon rises 11.57 am

Full Moon January 8

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.30	2.10
Austria Sch	18.30	16.80
Belgium Fr	53.40	49.00
Canada $	2.04	1.88
Denmark Kr	10.07	9.27
Finland Mkk	8.69	7.98
France Fr	8.83	8.13
Germany Dm	2.59	2.39
Greece Dr	348.00	323.00
Hong Kong $	12.40	11.40
Ireland Pt	0.98	0.90
Italy Lira	2340.00	2175.00
Japan Yen	206.25	187.25
Netherlands Gld	2.91	2.68
Norway Kr	11.05	10.25
Portugal Esc	232.00	214.00
South Africa Rd	5.20	4.80
Spain Pta	179.50	166.50
Sweden Kr	11.27	10.47
Switzerland Fr	2.33	2.15
Turkey Lira	13900.0	12800.0
USA $	1.61	1.48

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. NB Rates are subject to change.



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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل



TEST OFFER 21

See England in action against the Indians



SPORT 17-24

Meyer to make the running at Durham



BUSINESS 26-32

Squirreling away tax-free returns for the new year

WEEKEND MONEY

Pages 26-30

THE TIMES 2

SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1993

Arsenal wary of Yeovil's giant-killing urge

Tough Graham axes Jensen from Cup team

BY DENNIS SIGNY

GEORGE Graham headed for Yeovil with his Arsenal squad yesterday for the kind of FA Cup-tie every leading manager dreads: the giants of Highbury, reeling after a run of seven matches without a win, against Yeovil, the most famous giant-killers of all, in front of a crowd of 8,400, most of them baying for another famous day.

For Graham and his team, there is also the black memory of their 2-1 third-round defeat by Wrexham, then in the fourth division, a year ago. "That was the lowest point of my managerial career," he said yesterday, though Arsenal followed that loss with a 17-match unbeaten sequence.

"The public love to see David slaying Goliath and 99 per cent of them would love to see Yeovil put one over on us," Graham said. However, Graham brushed aside pessimism by saying that if Arsenal played to 75 per cent of their capabilities, and matched Yeovil for desire, they should win today.

FA CUP

Graham caused the selection surprise of the day by omitting John Jensen, the Danish international, from his 17-man squad. Jensen is replaced by Ian Selley, 18, who has made only one previous first team appearance.

The Danish midfield player seemed a major capture after starring in Denmark's European championship triumph, but he has not adjusted to the pace of the Premier League. Although he has started 20 League games, he has collected five cautions and has suffered a series of niggling injuries.

Ray Parlour, another teenage midfield player, also misses the Yeovil game after being injured against Villa, but Graham is able to welcome the return of three England players — Lee Dixon, the right back who has missed the last four matches with injury, Tony Adams, the captain and central defender, after a two-match suspension, and Paul Merson, the forward who has been out for two games with injury.

Graham has been hard on his players since their defeat at Villa. He made them sit through a video of the match, cancelled a day off, and ordered extra training. All week, he has stressed the standards expected of Arsenal players.

Yeovil are likely to be at full strength, their player-manager, Steve Rutter, reporting no injury worries.

Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal's neighbours, also facing a tie against non-league opposition in Marlow, omit Gordon Durie, their £2.2 million Scottish international forward who has been accused of not being "in the right frame of mind" to play, from their 17-man squad. Doug Livermore, the Tottenham coach, said: "We have said all we are going to say about the matter and that's that."

Livermore was more forthcoming about Nick Barmby, 18, Durie's replacement: "The way he has come in and handled the situation is terrific. He has got an old head on young shoulders and seems to like the big occasions".

Tottenham have watched Marlow three times — "an honest, hard-working side," Livermore said — but, with goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt having seven clean sheets in 11 games, it would really be a major upset if Marlow even managed a draw.

Tottenham are likely to be unchanged against their Diadora League visitors from Buckinghamshire. Marlow's £50-a-week part-timers visited White Hart Lane yesterday in preparation for the biggest day in their footballing lives.

Marlow are hoping that Al James Hannigan, a former Arsenal reserve defender, will beat a knee injury to face Tottenham. Gary Lester, 38, their goalkeeper, dislocated a finger in training earlier this week, but is expected to play.

Simon Barnes at Yeovil, page 18

Forest look to cup for lift in spirits

BY CHRIS MOORE

NOTTINGHAM Forest, alarmingly adrift in the Premier League's relegation waters, will be clutching for a possible lifeline in the FA Cup third-round tie with Southampton at the City Ground tomorrow.

"A run in the cup could give us the kind of lift we are looking for," Neil Webb, the Forest midfield player, said. "Everything at the club is geared to getting out of trouble in the league," he added.

"That has got to be our priority. But there's no reason why some success in the FA Cup should not trigger off an overall change of fortune.

"It's been very disappointing being stuck at the bottom of the table, particularly when you look back on the games we should have won in recent weeks.

"We thought we had turned the corner when we won 4-1 at Leeds. But it was not to be.

"We are still producing some excellent football, and the players are relaxed about the situation and confident that we can do much better in the second half of the season. But we need to turn things round sooner rather than later."

Forest lost to Southampton at the City Ground five weeks ago in Webb's first game back after his £800,000 return from Manchester United.

They remain, however, a Jekyll and Hyde side as far as cup and league football are concerned, and can point to two victories over Southampton last season in the Rumbelows Cup and after extra time in the Zenith Data Systems Cup final at Wembley.

Clough portrait, page 19



GRAHAM MORRIS

Tea interval: Graham Gooch, the England cricket captain, takes a break from practice as the team prepares for the first fixture of its Indian tour. Gooch will be seeking his hundredth first-class century. Gooch poised, page 21

INSIDE

Pitman in Windsor gamble

ROYAL Athlete, trained by Jenny Pitman, earned a 33-1 quote for the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March after landing a gamble in a handicap hurdle at Windsor yesterday.

Royal Athlete missed two seasons' racing because of injury, but made a satisfactory return at Kempton on Boxing day before his winning display at the Berkshire track.

The race meeting Nottingham today was called off because of frost.

Windsor report, page 23

MCC upset

COLONEL John Stephenson, secretary of MCC, reacted angrily yesterday to the publication of "the case for the prosection" by MCC rebels who have forced a meeting to censure the England selectors for excluding David Gower and Jack Russell from the England party tojring India.

"They have breached an agreement we had," Stephenson said.

Cricket, page 21

Testing time

IAN Barclay, who guided Pat Cash to the Wimbledon championship, is this weekend looking for "a kid with a bit of bastard in him, someone who can thrive under pressure".

Barclay, now head coach at the Bisham Abbey school of excellence, is examining 20 boys, all aged 12 or under; two or three will be chosen to take the next step in the cut-throat world of tennis.

Young hopefuls, page 19

Form guide

WILL Carling yesterday pointed to the example of Leeds United as he and his England rugby union team-mates prepared for the defence of the five nations' championship.

"What happened last year means nothing. Look what happened to Leeds. They started the season with the same squad of players that won the championship last year but look where they are now."

David Hands, page 20

FA hopes for mild weekend

BY DENNIS SIGNY

FOOTBALL Association officials were yesterday hoping that the FA Cup programme this weekend would not be seriously affected by the cold weather. By last night, Ipswich Town's tie against Plymouth Argyle was the only postponement, but inspections are planned this morning at Oldham, Leicester and Bury.

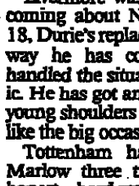
"We are hoping for a mild weekend," Mike Wilmore, the FA spokesman, said. "Wide-scale postponements only figure in the worst possible scenario."

The problem with postponements is that police forces are demanding ten days' notice for games to be staged. Thus, any match called off this weekend might have to wait until the week after next, with subsequent replays threatening the fourth round, scheduled for January 23. Ipswich have rescheduled their game against Plymouth for January 13.

Manchester United, the Cup favourites, have already been hit. They must sit out the weekend games because Bury and Wigan still have to settle their second-round tie.

Cup replay dates, page 24

A world full of heavyweight champions . . .



SIMON BARNES

Sporting Diary

OLD Barnes's Almanac never fails. The Nostradamus of the sporting world now leaps into action with a string of prophecies that will *unquestionably* come to pass in 1993.

Bookmakers repent. They sell up and permit the horse racing industry to be run on behalf of the horse racing industry.

Rugby union becomes rational. Players are paid overtly. The event is celebrated in a double-header at Twickenham and Central Park, Wigan.

Fifa notices that the people of the United States don't give a monkey's about football. The 1994 World Cup is shifted to Brazil; final to take place in the re-built Maracana.

The Manchester Olympics people come clean and issue a statement: "Oh, all right, it has, in the past, rained in Manchester."

Rory Underwood scores a try and Bill Beaumont fails to say: "This all came about because of the forwards . . ."

In Formula One, all the excitement, action and unpredicability takes place on the track; in other areas of the sport, all is calm and peaceful and predictable.

Nigel Mansell and Nick Faldo make jokes.

Corporate hospitality is banned from all sports grounds and stadiums, after a campaign of intolerable pressure from a group calling themselves the Campaign for Real Punters.

Football abolishes the League Cup, or whatever the damn thing is called these days, and most other competitions as well. Only the championship and the FA Cup remain.

Rugby league follows suit. In an ultra-competitive season, Wigan win neither.

Keith Fletcher has a think and says: "Maybe we need a Test class left-hander in the batting line-up." Astonishingly, he finds one with the necessary experience in the television commentary box, and plays him in all three Tests in India.

Women are welcomed back into women's gymnastics.

Nigel Mansell crashes in a motor-car race and says afterwards: "It was my fault. Neither the car nor any other driver was to blame."

Not a single track and field athlete tests positive for drugs.

Golf, seeking to add a little excitement to a what is a dull game, permits opponents to tackle.

A sportswriter from Hertfordshire, hitherto unknown as a competitior at such a level, wins Badminton at his first attempt on his bay mare, Alive and Kicking.

Wimbledon fortnight comes and goes without anyone moaning about the lack of talent in British tennis.



Jeremy Bates wins it anyway, without once removing his woolly. Jo Durie hammers her way to victory in the women's singles: "My mind was like teak," she says afterwards.

There are no major Gazza stories this year.

Graham Taylor begs Gary Lineker to come out of retirement. Touched, Lineker does so and scores a hat-trick in each of England's World Cup qualifiers. "Almost as good as Alan Smith," Taylor enthuses.

The America's Cup, realising that the event is even more boring than golf, introduces a rule permitting opponents to grapple and board. Lawrence Taylor, former linebacker of New York Giants, teams up with Dennis Conner.

Boxing realises that every single professional heavyweight is now recognised as world champion by at least one governing body. Recognising the absurdity, the sport disbands itself.

This column is greeted with courtesy and charm when it turns up to cover the Derby. Facilities for the press have quadrupled in size and are now just about adequate. "We need the press to stay in business," says a spokesman. "We look on you as friends and colleagues."

British ski-jumping realises its dream and establishes the first permanent ski-jumping hill in the country. It swiftly becomes a major spectator sport.

Tewin Irregulars manage a full season of cricket. As usual, the team has a 100 per cent record, but this time it is the right way round. The attritional off spinner relocates line and length for the duration of the long, hot summer.

World sporting bodies put their heads together and say: "Some of us have made good money from the return of South Africa — notably in the white-dominated sports like rugby and cricket. We must now put our profits into support for the great black-dominated sport of all Africa — and bring South African football into the world's spotlight."

I further predict that this will be a year of happiness and light the length and breadth of the sporting world; that all sporting matters will lead to harmony and understanding in a new age when peace will guide the planets and love will steer the stars.

Happy new year from this column.

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Champions hope Cup will provide relief

Whyte and Wallace ready to return for anxious Leeds

By Ian Ross

FA CUP

LEEDS United, Liverpool and Everton have between them won the FA Cup on ten occasions, yet their inconsistency this season has been so pronounced that all three tread nervously into their third-round ties this weekend.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, conceded immediately after the Boxing day defeat by Blackburn Rovers that his faltering team, the Football League champions last season, was no longer in the race for the Premier League title.

Having already been eliminated from both the European and Coca-Cola Cups, Leeds, and Wilkinson, now have little option but to focus their attentions on the FA Cup.

Under normal circumstances, a home tie against Charlton Athletic would be regarded as little more than a formality for Leeds. These are, however, not normal circumstances.

Chris Whyte and Rod Wallace were the sacrificial lambs against Norwich City earlier in the week, but one, or both, could return this afternoon.

Liverpool's lack of success away from Anfield this season is almost unprecedented, which makes all the more dangerous tomorrow's game against Bolton Wanderers before a capacity crowd at Burnden Park.

After defeating Oldham Athletic at Boundary Park last January, Liverpool did not win away, excluding neutral venues, until September, when they overcame, with some discomfort, Apollon Limassol in a European Cup-Winners Cup-tie. That 16-game sequence was Liverpool's least productive for 24 years.

For Graeme Souness, the manager of a club in the midst of a prolonged and painful period of transition, the pressure continues to mount. "Managing Liverpool is a monster of a job but I still want to do it," he said. "We have made enormous changes and I am now taking the criticism for the four successful managers the club has had before me.

"People have waited a long time to criticise Liverpool Football Club. There is a jealousy towards this club and the success it has enjoyed. I inherited a side which was finished in terms of winning things. They were still good players but losing wasn't hurting enough," he added.

With several influential members of his senior squad still unavailable because of injury, Souness will make just one change for a tie he acknowledges as "tricky". He recalls Michael Thomas in place of the suspended Jamie Redknapp.

Everton's season, and quite possibly Howard Kendall's future at Goodison Park, hangs by a slender thread today, and Wimbledon expect to sever it at Selhurst Park.

Everton reached four FA Cup finals during the 1980s, three of them under Kendall, but their main concern now is survival in the Premier League.

"This game is very important for everyone connected with the club but we must not believe that the FA Cup is the be-all or the end-all for us because we are still near the foot of the table and in desperate need of league points," Kendall said.

Kendall has delayed naming his side but Mo Johnston's chance of earning a recall ended on Wednesday, when he suffered a depressed fracture of a cheekbone in an "accident at home". Johnston will undergo corrective surgery on Monday and will be absent for at least a month.

Blackburn's attack will have a rather toothless appearance against Bournemouth at Ewood Park if, as is expected, both Alan Shearer and Mike Newell are ruled out because of injury.

☐ Ron Atkinson, the Aston Villa manager, is confident that his side will answer the criticisms of his Bristol Rovers counterpart, Malcolm Allison, in today's tie at Villa Park.

Marine may match Merseyside's best

WITH both Liverpool and Everton facing decidedly awkward tasks in the FA Cup this weekend, it is just conceivable that by tomorrow afternoon Merseyside's sole representatives in the fourth round could be Marine from the rather prosperous town of Crosby (Ian Ross writes).

Marine have surpassed all expectations by reaching the third round for the third time in their 98-year history. While their reward for victory over Stafford Rangers in the previous round — a trip to Crewe Alexandra of the third division — is neither glamorous nor financially fulfilling, it does at least offer the HFS Loans League club a real prospect of further progress.

Roly Howard, the window cleaner who has managed Marine for the past 20 years, is confident that his team's blend of skill and honest endeavour will win the day.

"It is true to say that initially we were all very disappointed to be drawn against Crewe," he said. "There is no disrespect intended, but, obviously, we had all been hoping for a big Premier League club. That is human nature, I suppose.

"But, looking at things now, I am perfectly happy with this draw because I do honestly believe that we can make it through into the fourth round. The other non-League clubs, Yeovil and Marlow, may have the glamour ties against Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur, but which of us has the more realistic chance of winning?

"It really would be an insult to my players to suggest anything other than that we are going to win this game. I know they are capable of it."

Sealey expected to return

THE Aston Villa goalkeeper, Les Sealey, is likely to join Premier League title rivals, Manchester United, for a second spell.

Sealey, who will be given a free transfer by the Villa manager, Ron Atkinson, is expected to have talks with the United manager, Alex Ferguson, on Monday. Ferguson wants Sealey as cover for his No. 1, Peter Schmeichel.

Sealey, 35, is due to complete a three-month spell on loan with first division strugglers Birmingham City tomorrow.

Sealey won an FA Cup and European Cup-Winner's Cup medals during his first spell with United.

Jack Crayston, an elegant 6ft 1in wing-half with the most successful side in Arsenal's history in the 1930s, has died at the age of 82.

Crayston was born on October 10, 1910, at Grange-over-Sands, Lancashire and won eight England caps, two championship medals and an FA Cup winner's medal between 1935-8. He began his career with Barrow in 1928, joined Bradford Park Avenue two years later and signed for Arsenal in May, 1934, for £5,250. He made 187 peacetime appearances for the club.

Diego Maradona can stay with the Spanish club, Sevilla, despite a financial wrangle over his transfer from Napoli. Fifa, the world governing body, announced yesterday.

Sevilla have paid £2 million of an agreed £5 million fee to Napoli. But an Italian bank guarantee for the rest of the money has not been made and Napoli had demanded that his contract be suspended.

Fifa decided that, as no money was owed, the lack of a guarantee did not warrant stopping the Argentinian playing. Sevilla are not due to make a second payment until March.



Victory past: the 1949 2-1 extra time defeat of Sunderland, then proudly of the first division. Dyke, in the Yeovil goal, punches clear

Slippery slope still waits for Arsenal

Simon Barnes searches Yeovil in vain for the cowherds and cider-makers that by all things right should today take on the might of the Establishment in the third round of the FA Cup

Today, four cowherds, two cider-makers, two blacksmiths, a butcher, a baker and a candlestick-maker take on the pride of London in the FA Cup third round. Untrained yokels with hayseeds in their hair take on the cream of the nation's footballers on a pitch with a 45-degree slope that is normally used for grazing heifers and growing mangel-wurzels.

As a matter of fact, all this is completely untrue. But all the same, anyone who takes even a passing interest in football will be yearning to see Yeovil Town, of the GM Vauxhall Conference, defeat Arsenal, who play in something called the Premier League.

Arsenal are used to being willed to defeat by a nation. After all, that is Arsenal's job. You are either an Arsenal supporter, or you feel a touch of glee at every Arsenal defeat. And everybody loves to see a good Cup upset.

Yeovil have had a fair taste of being the focus of the national will on these occasions. They have beaten 16 Football League sides in a splendid tradition of cup-fighting.

It would be too much to say that all Yeovil was agog. Yeovil is not a Hicksville, any more than Yeovil Town are a team of ignorant hoofers. The place has all the usual amenities of the busy provincial town: industrial estate, paved shopping precinct, barmen that say "cheers, mate", and a handsome church in the middle of town. Locked, of course. The shops were all open.

The butcher has chosen to write "Good luck, Yeovil Town" on his blackboard instead of the price of flesh, but that was the visible extent of cup fever.

And one yearns for the picturesque. One of the local papers quoted a statement about one of the Yeovil players, Nick Coates: "That young man can kick a football a long way." That certainly has a cup-tie ring to it.

But in truth, one looks in vain for the picturesque details to decorate the delights of the traditional Underdog v Arsenal cup-tie. I made a rather desperate search for quaintness through the pages of the local press: All Roach Catch Wins Open Match; Davies Back To Face Tiverton; a letter beginning: "The increase of WI subscriptions has provoked much correspondence".

But let's get real. The old sloping pitch of Yeovilian (and national) mythology is no more. Yeovil Town now have one of the best grounds in the Conference, as good as most in the lower divisions of the league. It is prairie-flat, spacious, and it is out on that industrial estate; an effective, soulless sort of place, though it won't seem like that today.

The team is packed with hyper-fit, hard-training players — like any other side in the Conference. There is a squad of part-time and full-time players, which is run by the full-time player-manager, Steve Rutter. I know, it would be more fun to have him as farmer milking the cows at 4am before rushing to the match in his gum-boots, but he is a professional sportsman.

The side also has three graduates, so that rather destroys the ignorant yokels aspect of the myth. These days, there are many well-educated footballers who prefer to play top-level part-time football and establish a career in the real world at the same time. One of these graduates, Paul Nevin, used to play with the Purple Aces of Indiana; he is probably more worldly than many of his opponents today.

Yeovil Town have a reputation for playing a bit of football: well, every parks team in the land talks tactics these days. By the time you get to the level of the Conference, you have people who know what they are talking about.

So all the traditional decoration of the third round Underdog cup-tie is missing. In truth, it has been missing for years. Modern professional sport isn't like that any more. Does this mean that the occasion has lost its value? Not a bit of it.

Yeovil may be unrecognisable from the sort of side that beat Bournemouth in the 1924-5 season, or Crystal Palace in 1934-5; indeed, all of football has changed since then. But Yeovil are still plucky underdogs: they are just hard-training, hyper-fit, tactically aware and properly professional underdogs.

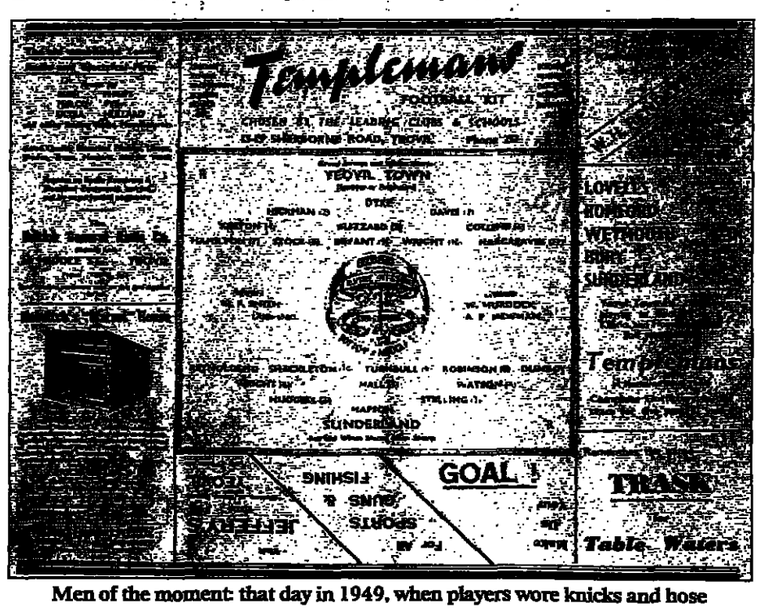
And footballing people across the land will still will them to victory on their soulless ground. The national will is with them just as much as if they were candlestick-makers on a 45-degree slope. We all yearn for a good upset.

In truth, we all have a yearning for the overthrow of established order. We all have a taste for unleashing mere anarchy upon the world. Mostly, we dare not think such things. But sport has a happy knack of removing the internal censor. We may resist the forces of misrule in real life; but in sport, the subversive streak that lies deep in most of us can be released.

What kind of poor booby hopes Arsenal will win? What uncommitted person could possibly hope to see the Establishment assert authority and strut to an easy victory?

No. We wish for a taste of disorder; a taste of freedom. That is what such a fixture is all about. That is why such occasions tend to be dressed up in unnecessary fantasies of yokelism and quaintness, adding more tabasco to an already fiery dish.

For even stripped bare of hayseeds and oob-arring extras, this is an extraordinarily potent occasion. Arsenal represent the Establishment better than any other football club; the secret anarchist that lurks within the heart of all of us cannot fail give a cheer for Yeovil Town today.



Men of the moment: that day in 1949, when players wore knicks and hose

Today

Aston Villa (8-1) v Bristol Rovers (300-1)

The tie that brings Big Ron (Atkinson) face to face with Big Mal (Allison). Aston Villa will be greatly strengthened if Dalian Atkinson passes a late fitness tes. If he does not, Dwight Yorke will continue to deputise. Allison must choose between the goalkeepers Kelly and Parkin.
Positions: 3rd (Prem) and 19th (D1); Five year cup record: Villa 6, 3, 6, 4, 4, Rovers, 4, 3, 1, 2, 3. Top scorers: Atkinson (Villa) 13, Taylor (Rovers) 9.

Blackburn (10-1) v Bournemouth (500-1)

Alan Shearer faces a late test on a damaged right knee with Wegerle standing-by for his second outing of the week for Rovers. Moran should return to central defence after recovering from a stomach upset. Efan Ekoku, could be called up to replace Paul Wood for Bournemouth.
Positions: 4th (Prem) and 18th (D2).
Five-year cup record: Blackburn, 4, 3, 3, 5; 3; Bournemouth 4, 4, 3, 5, 3.
Top scorers: Shearer (Blackburn) 22, McGorry (Bournemouth) 5.

Brentford (150-1) v Grimsby (150-1)

Brentford, unbeaten in nine games and straight into the third round for the first time since 1954, wait on hamstring victims Chris Hughton and Kevin Godfrey. The Grimsby defender, Paul Futcher, has recovered from a calf injury picked up against Derby a fortnight ago and is expected to partner Graham Rodger in defence.
Positions: 10th (D1) and 12th (D1).
Five-year cup record: Brentford, 2, 3, 1, 6, 1; Grimsby, 1, 1, 3, 5, 2. Top scorers: Bissett (Brentford) 19, Mendonca (Grimsby) 8. Replay: Wednesday January 13 (7.45)

Brighton (150-1) v Portsmouth (80-1)

Brighton have home advantage for this South Coast derby but Portsmouth not only come from a higher division, they also have the experience gained from a run which took them to the semi-final last year. Brighton expect Foster, who led them in the FA Cup final replay of 1983, to be fit. He will need to be, as Whittingham, Portsmouth's leading scorer has passed a fitness test.
Positions: 9th (D2) and 5th (D1).
Five-year cup record: Brighton, 4, 4, 4, 3, 4; Portsmouth, SF, 5, 3, 3, 6.
Top scorers: Kennedy (Brighton) 6, Whittingham (Portsmouth) 29.

Cambridge (250-1) v Sheffield Wednesday (20-1)

Two years ago, Cambridge beat Wednesday 4-0 in a fifth round match and despite a change of mangership, from John Beck to Ian Atkins, they have high hopes today. Several players have overcome flu but all are expected to be available. Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, has said he wants to win to erase the memory of what he calls one of the "poorest performances" in his period as a manager.
Positions: 22nd (D1) and 14th (Prem). Five-year cup record: Cambridge, 4, 6, 6, 3, 2; Sheff Wed, 4, 5, 4, 4, 3. Top scorers: White (Cambridge) 6, Bright (Sheff Wed) 12.

Derby (50-1) v Stockport (400-1)

Jason Kavanagh, who started the season as first-choice right-back before being dropped, will replace the injured Richard Goulooze. Forward Kevin Francis started his career at the Baseball before switching to County, who are in the last 64 for the first time in five seasons.
Position: 8th (D1) and 10th (D2).
Five-year cup record: Derby, 4, 3, 3, 4, 3; Stockport, 2, 1, 1, 1, 3. Top scorers: Kitson (Derby) 16, Francis (Stockport) 18. Replay: Wednesday January 13 (7.30).

Hartlepool (400-1) v Crystal Palace (33-1)

Alan Murray has named the same Hartlepool team which won 3-1 at Fulham in a second division match on Monday while Palace will include their defender, Andy Thorn, who suffered concussion at Middlesbrough on the same day. The Premier League team will however be without the midfield player, Southgate, who has broken a bone in his foot. Osborn will replace him.
Positions: 4th (D2) and 15th (Prem).
Five-year cup record: Hartlepool, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3. Crystal Palace, 3, 3, F, 3, 3.
Top scorers: Saville (Hartlepool) 16, Armstrong (Crystal Palace) 10.

Leeds (14-1) v Charlton (150-1)

Given their current form, Leeds will be glad this one is at Elland Road and Howard Wilkinson will decide whether to keep Wetherall and Veradi in the team at the expense of Whyte and Wallace respectively. Charlton will bring in Carl Leaburn to replace Lee Power, who has returned to Norwich after a period on loan.
Positions: 16th (Prem) and 11th (D1).
Five-year cup record: Leeds, 3, 4, 3, 4, 3; Charlton, 4, 3, 4, 5, 3. Top scorers: Chapman (Leeds) 13, Pardew (Charlton) 7.

Leicester (100-1) v Barnsley (200-1)

Leicester had their last home match against Notts County on Boxing Day postponed because of a frost-bound pitch, but if the cup tie goes ahead left-back Mike Whitlow should be back in the side after a stomach upset. Barnsley manager, Mel Machin, will await the outcome of an early morning pitch inspection before finalising his team.
Positions: 6th (D1) and 15th (D1).
Five-year cup record: Leicester, 4, 3, 3, 3, 3; Barnsley, 3, 3, 5, 5, 4. Top scorers: Davison (Leicester) 9, Biggins (Barnsley) 7.

Luton (150-1) v Bristol City (150-1)

The Luton manager, David Pleat, will give midfield player, Jason Rees, a fitness test before naming his side to face Bristol City in the FA Cup tomorrow. If Rees has not recovered from a knee injury, Benalamin is likely to replace him. City are likely to include their midfield player, Gerry Harrison, who also injured a knee this week, and Shelton.
Positions: 20th (D1) and 18th (D1).
Five-year cup record: Luton, 3, 4, 3, 3, SF; Bristol City, 4, 3, 5, 3, 2. Top scorers: Gray (Luton) 10, Cole (Bristol City) 13.

Man City (16-1) v Reading (400-1)

Hill, the central defender who has been a pillar of strength during City's recent improvement, will play despite a groin injury but Reading, of the second division, will test four players. Gilkes, Williams, Hopkins and Richardson before the kick-off. Lambert, the teenage winger who has attracted the interest of Monaco and several Premier League clubs, is likely to play.
Positions: 10th (Prem) and 16th (D2).
Five-year cup record: Man City, 3, 5, 3, 4, 6; Reading, 3, 1, 4, 4, 3. Top scorers: White (Man City) 11, Quinn (Reading) 12.

Marlow (5,000-1) v Tottenham (16-1)

Marlow, of the Diadora League, decided to play this tie at White Hart Lane, thus reducing their chances of causing an upset considerably. They hope Al James Hannigan will be fit to play in defence. Tottenham omit Durie from a 17-man squad and hope that Barmby, 18, will fill the gap. Nayim has recovered from a foot injury.
Positions: 19th (DFL Prem) and 12th (Prem). Five-year cup record: Marlow, 1, 4Q, 4Q, 2Q, 2Q; Tottenham, 3, W, 3, 3, 4. Top scorers: Bushay (Marlow) 13, Sheringham (Tottenham) 9.

Newcastle (28-1) v Port Vale (200-1)

Newcastle, the runaway leaders of the first division, lost 4-2 to Oxford last week but Kevin Kegan, their manager plans no great changes, addin Carr to his squad. Port Vale, who are pursuing their neighbours Stoke in the second division can recall Peter Swan after a two-match suspension.
Positions: 1st (D1) and 7th (D2).
Five-year cup record: Newcastle, 3, 4, 5, 3, 5; Port Vale, 3, 4, 4, 3, 5. Top scorers: Kelly (Newcastle) 14, Taylor (Port Vale) 12.

Yeovil (1500-1) v Arsenal (8-1)

Yeovil are likely to be at full strength with player-manager, Steve Rutter, reporting no injury worries. Arsenal, who have lost five of their last seven matches, omit the Danish midfield player, John Jensen, from their 17-man squad. Selly, 18, could make his second appearance in midfield.
Positions: 7th (GM) and 9th (Prem).
Five-year cup record: Yeovil, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3; Arsenal, 3, SF, 4, 3, 6. Top scorers: Wilson (Yeovil) 7, Wright (Arsenal) 12.

Wimbledon (66-1) v Everton (33-1)

The Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear, has two injury worries, Dean Holdsworth and Warren Barton, singled out Peter Beardsley as the main threat to his team's hopes at Selhurst Park. Beardsley scored Everton's winner against Wimbledon in the Coca-Cola Cup replay in November. For Everton, Snodin, Ebbrell, Jackson and Harper are named in a 17-man squad and look like being fit, but Cottee, Hinchcliffe and Ward are all out. For the loser of this tie, this season will hold little more than a long battle against relegation from the Premier League.
Positions: 21st (Prem) and 18th (Prem). Five-year cup record: Wimbledon, 3, 4, 3, 6, W; Everton, 4, 6, 5, F, 5. op scorers: Holdsworth (Wimbledon) 5, Beardsley (Everton) 8.

Norwich (14-1) v Coventry (40-1)

Norwich, the Premier League leaders, will be strengthened by the return of their captain, Ian Butterworth, to their defence. Butterworth will replace Rob Newman, who will be out of action for at least eight weeks after breaking an ankle in the goalless draw against Leeds on Monday. Bobby Gould, the Coventry manager, has dropped his own son, Jonathan, following the 5-0 defeat by Manchester United on Monday. Steve Ogrizovic, who played for Coventry in the FA Cup final in 1987, takes over in goal.
Positions: 1st (Prem) and 8th (Prem).
Five-year cup record: Norwich, SF, 6, 4, SF, 3; Coventry, 3, 4, 3, 3, 4. Top scorers: Robins (Norwich) 12, Quinn (Coventry) 15.

Tomorrow

Bolton Wanderers (500-1) v Liverpool (8-1).

Burnden Park will play host to a capacity crowd of around 22,000 for the first time in several years as Bolton Wanderers bid to embarrass the ailing and inconsistent millionaires from Merseyside, who also happen to be the holders of the FA Cup.. With Redknapp suspended, Graeme Souness must again reshuffle his midfield pack which, it is expected, will mean a recall for Thomas following his recovery from a recent achilles tendon operation.
Positions: 6th (D2) and 11th (Prem).
Five-year cup record: Bolton, 5, 4, 1, 2, 3; Liverpool, W, 5, SF, W, F. Top scorers: Walker (Bolton) 16, Rush (Liverpool) 9.

Middlesbro (40-1) v Chelsea (16-1)

Lennie Lawrence, the Middlesbrough manager, has yet to decide who will take over from Hignett, who is cup-tied. Falconer, the former Scottish under-21 midfield player, and Kavanagh, the Republic of Ireland under-19 international, are the candidates. Harford, Chelsea's top scorer, hopes to shake off a calf strain to lead the attack. Myers is still likely to be preferred to Le Saux.
Positions: 13th (Prem) and 6th (Prem). Five-year cup record: Middlesbrough, 5, 4, 3, 3, 4; Chelsea, 6, 3, 4, 3, 4. Top scorers: Hignett (Middlesbrough) 17, Harford (Chelsea) 10.

Nottingham F (20-1) v Southampton (40-1)

Woan, a winger-cum-midfield player, may be recalled at the expense of Black for this live televised tie. Southampton will be without their forward, Dowie, who begins a two-match ban for reaching 20 disciplinary points. Dixon has not played in the senior side since October but is favourite to replace him.
Positions: 22nd (Prem) and 17th (Prem). Five-year cup record: Forest, 6, F, 3, SF, SF; Saints, 6, 5, 5, 3, 4. Top scorers: Bannister and Clough (Forest) 6, Le Tissier (Saints) 8.

☐ Odds supplied by William Hill

THE TIMES

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THE TIMES SPORTING HERITAGE CALENDAR 1993 TOKEN 7

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Saturday portrait: Brian Clough, by Dennis Shaw

Times of doubt for the grand old man of football management

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



On January 8, 1975, Brian Clough was in charge of Nottingham Forest for the first time, for a third-round FA Cup replay against Tottenham Hotspur.

Tomorrow, 18 years later, Clough's Forest team entertains Southampton in the same stage of the same competition. There the similarity ends, for Clough's footballing world has been turned upside down in the past five months.

The 27-year managerial career curve of Brian Howard Clough, having previously moved ever upwards, is in decline. "Old Big Head", as he calls himself, must be wondering if has lingered in the job too long.

Most public figures come to a point where they must consider quitting while still at the top. Having already become the longest-serving manager in the league, Clough may have left it too late.

Nottingham Forest are bottom of the Premier League, five points adrift of the next team. For the first time since they achieved promotion in 1977, they are in danger of dropping out of the top flight, a fall that could scarcely have come at a more difficult time.

None of Clough's teams has won the FA Cup, although Forest reached the final two years ago, but the competition has always provided them with a pleasant diversion from the serious business of the league. Not this time. Victory over Southampton tomorrow and a place in the fourth round is an urgent requirement.

Forest need the money generated by a cup run. An early exit, followed by relegation, would be nothing short of disastrous for a club which has just spent £4 million on a new stand. If this is hardly familiar territory for Brian Clough, he is no stranger to hard times.

His career as a player was spectacular but brief. By the age of 24, he was the Football League's leading goalscorer with 42 goals for Middlesbrough in season 1958-9; at the age of 28, he had retired, a knee injury having cut short a career which had taken him to Sunderland and brought him two England caps.

There was never any doubt that he would continue in the game and he cut his teeth as a coachby looking after the Sunderland youth team for a brief spell before becoming manager of Hartlepool United in October 1965.

His performance in two years there caught the eye of Sam Longson, the Derby County chairman, and in May 1967 Clough moved to the Baseball Ground — and his managerial career took off.

He and the less mercurial Peter Taylor introduced a form of high-profile, all-action management which carried Derby County to the second division championship in 1969, the first division title three years later. This success, and Clough's lively, abrasive television manner, made him a national figure.

> 'Old Big Head', as he calls himself, must be wondering if has lingered in the job too long . . . victory over Southampton and a place in the fourth round is an urgent requirement

But by October 1973, relations with Longson had soured, and Clough and Taylor walked out, briefly managing Brighton and Hove Albion before the big time called again the following year. With the appointment of Don Revie to the England job, Leeds United, the most successful English club team of the period, needed a replacement. Clough was summoned to take over a powerful but ageing team cointaining a number of strong personalities like Billy Bremner and Johnny Giles. Clough lasted just 44 days.

His next stop turned out to be his last one. He joined Nottingham Forest and, despite a public falling-out with Taylor, began a period of extraordinary success. In 1977, Forest were promoted to the first division. The following year, they won the League Championship and the League Cup. The next season, they retained the League Cup and won the biggest prize of all, the European Cup, which they retained the following year.

Since then, Forest have never seemed in danger of falling from the top division and have won the League Cup twice more (1989 and 1990), but something, somewhere has gone wrong this season. Even before the first ball had been kicked in August, it seemed that Clough had allowed his squad to become dangerously depleted.

There was no Des Walker, who had been the key to Forest's central defence. He had been sold to Sampdoria. In Darren Wossall, Clough seemed to have a ready-made replacement, but he went to Derby County. Soon there was no Teddy Sheringham in attack; he went to Tottenham Hotspur.

Roy Keane, the latest footballing treasure to be unearthed by Clough, suddenly found himself moved from midfield into defence. And until Neil Webb was bought back from Manchester United in November, there were no reinforcements.

Like every football manager, Clough is used to losing good players. Others have left and succeeded elsewhere: Lee Chapman, John Sheridan, Garry Parker. In the past, he has always found replacements. This season, players who might have strengthened his squad have changed clubs with no apparent attempt by Clough to sign them.

This is not the style of the man who joined Herbert Chapman (Huddersfield Town and Arsenal) as the only two managers to have won the championship for two clubs.

Clough has always insisted that his team should play attractive football. Not for him the long ball upfield and the direct route to safety. But now there are mutterings that he has adhered too long to his principles of "passing" football with the emphasis always on attack.

Even his fellow managers have expressed their doubts. George Graham, of Arsenal, said recently: "If we were in their position, I wouldn't play like that." Doug Livermore, the Tottenham Hotspur coach, said: "Forest's style suits many other teams, including ours."

Yet if Clough is going down, he is doing so with grace. This year, as always, the Forest players are among the best behaved in the league, as a glance at the weekly fairplay figures confirms.

Clough has never cared much about his critics and never worried about colliding with authority. It was part of his charm. It probably also prevented him from becoming England manager in 1978 when his outstanding qualifications for the job were overlooked by the Football Association in favour of the more conservative manner of Ron Greenwood.

If that honour escaped him, little else has. He has nurtured his son, Nigel, to success with Forest and caps for England. He has been named in the Honours List, given an honorary Master of Arts degree by Nottingham University, and the Freedom of the City by the local council. He has made a fortune.

And he has accepted it all with impish humour. You have to laugh when you see his television commercials. You warm to him when he talks of baby-sitting with his two grandchildren. You applaud his generosity when you hear he recently sent a personal cheque of £500 in aid of an ex-manager fallen on hard times.

It would be easy to assume that, at the age of 57, this father of three, grandfather of two, ought to have called down the curtain when his team reached that FA Cup final against Tottenham Hotspur. Or maybe last May. Yet this is Cloughie. So who knows?

Young hopefuls of British tennis audition for a place at school of excellence

Barclay plotting a brighter tomorrow

BY ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

FOG-BOUND Telford hardly seems like the gateway to glory, but for 20 boys this weekend it could prove the start of a bright new tomorrow. The boys, all aged 12 or under, will be auditioning for a place at the Rover School of Tennis Excellence at Bisham Abbey, the first step on a tortuous path which has proved more cul-de-sac than motorway for many past students.

Ian Barclay, the head coach at Bisham, better known as the man who guided Pat Cash to the Wimbledon title, is responsible for spotting the potential champion and then for teaching, grooming, cajoling and pushing him to the top of a cut-throat and highly competitive world. He is certain what he is looking for, though whether the parents of the chosen few will be happy with their offspring's most noticeable quality remains to be seen.

"I am looking for a kid with a bit of bastard in him. Someone who can thrive under pressure because that's what the business is about," Barclay said. "In a sense, I want a couple of dirty little street urchins. Born survivors."

For the lucky two or three who might graduate to the school, the opportunities are almost unlimited. There will be fitness sessions, mental training, up to 20 hours on-court practice a week, all dovetailed to fit in with schoolwork and all financed by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and Rover. In return, they will have to sacrifice the comforts of home and, to an extent, the normal life of a child.

Yesterday, at the Midland Bank 16 and under national championships at the Telford Racket Centre, the difference between the elite and the rest was starkly demonstrated. Martin Lee, 14, and Alex Osterrieth, 15, two of Bisham's current crop, lost a total of four games in reaching the semi-finals where, much to the frustration of Barclay, they will meet today. It will be their first real taste of competition of the week. Osterrieth, the top seed, has lost just seven games in getting to the last four.

"That's one of the problems," Barclay admitted. "They are not getting the regular, tough, competition they need at this age. They should be having four or five competitive matches a week, but there's nothing really here until the summer now." Barclay is, therefore, hoping to find some tournaments in France over the next two months.

Lee, who joined the Bisham squad just four months ago, has just returned from the United States, where he gained invaluable experience, playing 14 matches in three tournaments. Next week, Osterrieth is off to South America for five weeks to play the junior clay-court circuit. "It's what I call throwing him to the lions, but he speaks Spanish fluently so he should feel at home," Barclay said. "We've got some good kids coming through now, but we need a host of nine, ten, 11-year-olds playing competitive tennis, pushing the next group and so on through the whole system until even the senior players are being pushed to survive. Alot of really good things are happening, but the bottom row of bricks need to be straight before we can build properly and that means a more competitive structure." For Tom Dalby, beaten 6-3, 6-2 by Barry Webber yesterday, any scrap of help from the LTA is gratefully received. Dalby, who came through qualifying to reach the quarter-finals in Telford, is part of a squad run by Denzil Reid, an independent coach, at Islington Tennis Centre. He has never had an hour's one-on-one tuition, has had to pay £60 for a series of eight two-hour group coaching sessions and does not have a clue when his next tournament will be. His international experience consists of one week in Tunisia, the reward for winning a Starsearch tournament in Winchester. He hopes to compete in an International Tennis Federation competition in Denmark in June, but is not sure how he will finance the trip.

"He has got to this standard through group training. If I was able to be with him one-on-one for a time, who knows what he could achieve." Reid said. The same question will hang in the air over the group of young hopefuls at Telford today. Barclay knows the answer. "For the first British player to make it, there is a big pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."



Best shot: Venki Sundaram on the way to the semi-finals of the British junior championships yesterday

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

SÃO PAOLO: São Silvestre 15km races: Men: 1, S Chemwoyo (Ken), 44min 08sec; 2, A Barrios (Mex), 44:17; 3, J R Pazin (Br), 44.55. Women: 1, M del Carmen Diez (Mex), 54:00; 2, C Furtado de Oliveira (Br), 54:19; 3, M Tenorio (Ec), 54:39.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: (In Hobart): Victoria 417-7 dec (G Allerdice 116); Tasmania 185-9.

CYCLING

COLOGNE: Six-day race (after third day): 1, R Gunther (Ger) and P Bincoletto (It), 57pts; 2, U Frauler (Switz) and R Stumpf (Ger), 52; 3, J Goergen (Ger) and J Veggerby (Den), 50; 4, B Risi and K Betschart (Switz), 28; 5, A Kappes (Ger) and E de Wilde (Bel), 21. One lap behind: 6, A Klaus (Ger) and D Woods (Aus) 33. Four laps: 7, M Hess and G Doerich (Ger), 25. Seven laps: 8, M Haase (Ger) and K Krabchov (Russ), 43.
ULSTER: New year's day ten-mile time-trial: 1, M Carrol (Bann Valley), 23min 44sec; 2, S Hamilton (Ban Bridge), 24:13; 3, D Erwin (Ballymena), 24:33.
TIME-TRIALS: Southborough and District Wheelers (Bethersden, Kent, 10 miles): M Whitehead (VC Deal), 19min 58sec. Team: VC Elan 1:03:36. CC Breckland (Wymondham, Norfolk, 10 miles): J King (Haverhill Wheelers), 22:48. Team: CC Breckland 1:15:39. Cestria CC (Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, 10 miles): H Walker (GS Metro), 24:35.
CYCLO-CROSS: Colchester Rovers (Maldey, Essex, 12 miles): C Thompson (CC Romford), 1:04:51. Coalville Wheelers (Griffydam, Leicestershire, 10 miles): S Knight (Halesowen C and AC), 51:27. Crabwood CC (Southampton, 12.5 miles): A MacDonald (GS Europa), 1:06:24.

FOOTBALL

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: VS Rugby 2, Cambridge City 0; Weymouth 2, Waterlooville 1. Postponed: Atherstone v Burton. Southern division: Ashford 4, Fisher 0; Havant 0, Salisbury 2. Midland division: Hinckley 1, Leicester United 2. Postponed: Barri v Dudley; Bedworth v Stourbridge; Evesham v Yate; Grantham v Nuneaton; Redditch v Weston-super-Mare; Rushden and Diamonds v RC Warwick; Sutton Coldfield v Forest Green.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 0, Exmouth 0; Chippenham 2, Frome 2; Mangotsfield 2, Bristol Manor Farm 2; Saltash 2, Torrington 2. Postponed: Paulton v Clevedon.
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards 2, Carrick 0; Ballymena 0, Bangor 1; Crusaders 1, Ballyclare 1; Distillery 2, Cliftonville 1; Glenavon 0, Portadown 3; Larne 4, Ormeau 2; Linfield 2, Coleraine 0; Newry 1, Glentoran 1.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde 4, Mossley 2. Postponed: Buxton v Matlock.
PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Pacos Ferreira 0, Sporting Lisbon 3.

RUGBY LEAGUE

YOUNGERS ALLIANCE: First division: Hull 10, Hull Kingston Rovers 17.
STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Postponed: Sheffield v Halifax; Widnes v St Helens. Second division: Swinton v Oldham. Third division: Batley v Dewsbury.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo Sabres 11, New York Rangers 6; Calgary Flames 5, Montreal Canadiens 3; Chicago Blackhawks 5, Tampa Bay Lightning 0; Detroit Red Wings 5, Ottawa Senators 4 (OT); Minnesota North Stars 5, Boston Bruins 3; Pittsburgh Penguins 3, Toronto Maple Leafs 3 (OT); Winnipeg Jets 3, Edmonton Oilers 2; Quebec Nordiques 6, Hartford Whalers 2; St Louis Blues 5, New York Islanders 1, Vancouver Canucks 4, Los Angeles Kings 0.

REAL TENNIS

MELBOURNE: World championship elimnator: First leg: L Deucher (Aus) leads J Snow (GB), 6-5, 6-4, 6-1, 5-6.

TENNIS

TELFORD: Midland Bank junior national championships: Boys: Quarter-finals: A Osterrieth (Kent) bt J Bartlett (Devon), 6-1, 6-0; M Lee (Sussex) bt D Galasso (Surrey), 2-1 ret'd; B Webber (Cambs) bt T Dalby (Middx), 6-3, 6-2; V Sundaram (Lancs) bt B Haran (Hants), 6-4, 7-6. Girls: Quarter-finals: F Heam (Middx) bt L Ogan (Warwicks), 6-2, 6-3; Z Melis (Essex) bt L Fletcher (Durham and Cleveland), 6-1, 6-2; C Read (Surrey) bt J Fitzgerald (Cheshire), 6-4, 6-3; S Durham (Sussex) bt E Radout (Cumbria), 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

YACHTING

GLOBE CHALLENGE SOLO ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Leading positions (with miles to finish): 1, Bagages Superior (A Gautier, Fr), 15,091; 2, Groupe LG (B de Broc, Fr), 15,612; 3, Fleury Michon (P Poupon, Fr), 15,953; 4, K&H Bank Matav (N Fa, Hun), 15,981; 5, Solap Helvim (J-L Van den Heede, Fr), 15,981; 6, Euskadi Europa BBK (J de Ugarte, Sp), 16,455; 7, Vuarnet Watches (S Galley, Fr), 16,612; 8, A Wynne-Thomas (Cardiff Discovery, GB), 16,643; 9, Everlast/Nell Pride (V Malingin, It), 17,382; 10, PRB Solo Nantes (J-Y Hasselin, Fr), 17,485.

BRIEF

White plays Parrott

JIMMY White and John Parrott stage a repeat of their UK snooker championship final when they meet in the first match of the new European Snooker League at Swindon tomorrow. The six-times world champion, Steve Davis, follows with a match against Peter Ebdon.

The top four finishers in the League compete in play-offs for the title on May 29 and 30 at a venue to be confirmed.

Duechar ahead

Real tennis: Lachlan Duechar, of Australia, took an unexpected three sets to one lead over Julian Snow, of Britain, the world amateur champion, after the first leg of the eliminator for the world championship in Melbourne.

Mansell third

Sports poll: Nigel Mansell, the Formula One champion, finished third behind the American basketball player, Michael Jordan, and the athlete, Carl Lewis, in the 1992 Champion of Champions poll, which was organised by the French sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Runs to resort	Weather	Temp °C	Last snow fall
SWITZERLAND							
Crans Montana	30	350	hardpacked	difficult	sunny	4C	12/12
(Best skiing on glacier with dry snow on hard base)							
Gstaad	10	370	poor	difficult	sunny	-3C	12/12
(Best skiing on glacier (370cm). Icy, hardpacked snow elsewhere)							
Wengen	10	60	fair	worn	sunny	1C	12/12
(Hardpacked snow on highest runs. All 23 lifts open)							
Zermatt	50	160	fair	hard	sunny	-4C	8/12
(Best skiing above middle station. 16/21 lifts open)							
Bad Gastein	30	115	fair worn		sunny	0C	13/12
(Best skiing above middle station on groomed pistes)							
Fulpmes	10	75	poor	closed	sunny	0C	12/12
(Hardpacked, slick snow on upper runs. All lifts open)							
Obergurgl	65	190	fair	patchy	sunny	-2C	12/12
(Old snow cover well groomed on upper slopes. All pistes open)							
St Anton	30	250	fair	worn	sunny	-3C	12/12
(Artificial snow on lower runs. All lifts / pistes open)							
FRANCE							
Isole 2000	25	50	fair	thin	sunny	0C	23/12
(Compact snow above middle station. Cross-country track open)							
La Plagne	20	290	poor	icy	sunny	-4C	12/12
(Best skiing on upper slopes. 106 lifts / 110 pistes open)							
Les Deux Alpes	30	230	fair	open	-3C		23/12
(Light cover of fresh snow on upper slopes. 63 lifts open)							
Meribel	25	140	good	patchy	sunny	0C	12/12
(Best skiing on upper slopes. 62 pistes open)							
Tignes	120	350	fair	patchy	fine	0C	12/12
(Best skiing on La Grande Motte glacier (350cm))							
USA							
Vail	50	80	compact	open	overcast	-3C	19/12
(Lower slopes icy. Firm, compact snow on upper slopes)							
ITALY							
Sauze d'Oulx	20	80	good	fair	fine	-2C	28/12
(Best skiing above middle station. 27 lifts /120kms pistes open)							
Selva	50	90	fair	thin	sunny	-1C	8/12
(Still good skiing on upper runs. All lifts open)							
Livigno	50	200	fair	icy	fine	-2C	12/12
(Lower pistes solid am due to low temps. Fresh snow needed)							

☐ Information supplied by Ski Hotline

Supplied by Ski Hotline. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

SPORTING HERITAGE CALENDAR 1993 TOKEN

Coaches need to display the skills of a politician



Cooke: shut door



GERALD DAVIES

Rugby commentary

RUGBY coaches and managers, if they wish to avoid future blushes, ought to take a leaf out of the wiser kind of politician's commonplace jottings of things *not* to be caught saying.

"Never say never" is a pithy little maxim which should be embroidered into their tracksuits as an unshakeable reminder during the pitfalls of press conferences.

Geoff Cooke, the England and British Isles manager, like many an inhabitant of the House of Commons recently, seems to have ignored or forgotten this indispensable three-word apophthegm. His judgment, so sound thus far, deserted him the other day.

In announcing the squad to travel to the congenial climate of Lanzarote in the Canary Islands, Cooke explained the exclusion of Neil Back, of Leicester, on the grounds of his size. There is no place in modern rugby apparently for a back row forward, who, at 5ft 10in, is thought to be so vertically challenged.

The back of the lineout needs men to win the ball. Height is a necessarily concomitant characteristic. That a man should already be closer to the heavens before he begins jumping gives a player a head start, shall we say. Fair enough, as far as it goes.

But it is the kind of statement that can return to haunt the man in adversity or in the making of future policy. Cooke has laid out his stall for England in conjunction with two fellow-countrymen whose perceptions of tactics and personnel may be assumed to be in unison.

For England's strategy, Cooke may be right. But as a permanent principle, the analysis is flawed. A player cannot be discounted on size alone. Size can be only one characteristic upon which the final reckoning of any player is made.

So a door that was resolutely shut in Back's face is just as firmly shut behind Cooke's back. There is no escape for him. A judgment has been passed. And it will remain an assessment with which Cooke henceforward will have to live.

There are three things wrong with his assumption. A player may not have the advantage of height but he may on the other hand have inherited spring in his heels. Smaller men can reach those parts taller men cannot. Michael Jones, the New Zealand flanker, is a case in point and one whom the British Lions could well face this summer.

Standing only an inch taller than Back, he is well able, because of his leaping ability, to win the lineout ball. He has been surrounded by men like Whetton, Earl, and Brewer who at 6ft 3in or more can share this responsibility, while Jones uses his footballing intelligence elsewhere.

"The lineout is a place for the thinking man rather than just the tall man," said Neil Edwards, the Scotland lock, in one of the quotes of the sporting year.

So that, secondly, the overall effectiveness of the back row depends on balance; how well each of three players complements the others. This is Wales' dilemma: three players, Lewis, Webster and Davies, who display similar qualities that do not necessarily coalesce. The back row should encompass many and varied talents.

While the lineout is at present the most influential phase in rugby, it is not, although it is talked of as such, the only important phase. A flanker's contribution should not be limited to this sole consideration.

Rugby is a flexible game; advantage can be driven home at various points. Were the British and Irish to study the lineout as assiduously as Japan, the present preoccupation with height might not be half so solemn and might even cause a heavyweight pack to puff a bit.

But what of Cooke's wider, British Lions, concerns. There will be selectors from each of the four countries — Ken Reid (Ireland), Bob Monroe (Scotland), David Richards (Wales) and Derek Morgan (England) — as well as Ian McGeechan, the coach, and Cooke, the manager (and Dick Best, the assistant coach, too?).

The forthcoming five nations' championship performances will matter. Suppose the incumbents' form disappoints? What if injuries deprive others? And let us suppose further. Who is to say in the coming months that Back, or somebody his size, so impresses the majority on this panel that an irrefutable case is made for his inclusion in the touring party. What happens then?

Never say never, I say.

OWEN HUMPHREYS

Final act for players seeking early fame in international rugby

Back-row combinations tax three home countries

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TRIALS come in all shapes and sizes: Scotland and Ireland have distinctly old-fashioned ones at Murrayfield and Lansdowne Road today and tomorrow respectively while England's is the concentrated training in Lanzarote over an extended weekend. The upshot for all three countries is the same: the selection of their teams for the five nations' championship.

England's team to play France, and Ireland's to play Scotland, both on January 16, will emerge tomorrow and the Scots are likely to make their announcement 24 hours later. The common thread running through them all is the constitution of their back rows. Will England, for example, recall John Hall, the Bath flanker? What use will Scotland make of Carl Hogg? Does a belated Irish cap loom for Manchester's New Zealander, Dennis Kelly?

Hall's presence in Lanzarote is a triumph of spirit over a succession of injuries and, should he succeed in displacing Mike Teague, it will be a considerable achievement. He won his twentieth cap against Argentina in 1990 and promptly wrecked his knee in training in Lanzarote two months later.

"I feared that my career was as wrecked and as finished as my knee joint," Hall said. "There was pain and surgery for months. I couldn't walk without a stick.

"Fortunately I belong to a club that encourages players to reassess their careers and the England management team has always been supportive."

Hall kept Teague out of the divisional championship last month and proved as adept at winning loose ball as ever. The query will be his pace over the ground but, if Ben Clarke keeps his place at No. 8 against France, then there will be little between the contestants for the No. 6 shirt.

Will Carling, the England captain, acknowledged during a break in training yesterday that the opening match would be no picnic: "We watched the second Test between France and South Africa on video and we believe the Frenchhave picked their best squad, a squad that we would probably have picked for them. That worries us.

"It's a very hard start whichever way you look at it. What happened last year means nothing. Look what happened to Leeds United. They started the season with the same squad of players that won the championship last year but where are they now?"

Ireland have three crucial positions to fill after tomorrow's trial: stand-off half, open-side flanker and lock. Well though Peter Russell, the Instonians stand-off, played in New Zealand last summer he is not required. The young colts, Niall Malone and Paul Burke, fight it out for the right to partner Michael Bradley, who seems set to lead Ireland into a championship match for the first time.

Dennis McBride is the open-side for the senior team but, like Neil Back in England, he is short. He is opposed by Kelly, who comes to Ireland via New Zealand, Manchester and the Irish Exiles. At 28 he has time on his side which is more than David Tweed does. Tweed has had an excellent inter-provincial series for Ireland, but 33 is late to begin an international career in the second row.

The Wales selectors will hope to see Tony Clement back in action for Swansea today: the club selectors have pencilled him in at full back for the Heineken League match with Maesteg after a six-week absence with shin splints.

The decision, though, will be left to him, depending upon the reaction to training in midweek, but Clement knows that Mike Rayer, of Cardiff, has edged alongside him to contest the international place against England in Cardiff on February 6.

England's club programme will not include the scheduled match between Rugby and Harlequins. Frost has forced the cancellation of the fixture, leaving Harlequins with only one fixture in the past month (against Richmond last Monday) before league action resumes next weekend.

Scottish trial provides final stage for the opportunists

BY ALAN LORIMER

SCOTLAND'S international trial today takes place against a background of reconstruction, not simply of Murrayfield, but more importantly of the Scotland team.

Not since 1986, when the Reds (the junior team) won by more than 50 points to launch the careers of the Hastings brothers, David Sole and Finlay Calder, has a Scotland trial offered so many opportunities for players to profit from a single game.

Of course, the selectors will not base all their judgments on one trial game. Indeed, the match today is the final stage of a three-part trial, the other two components of which were the A games last month against Italy and Ireland.

However, the rather unsatisfactory nature of the victory over Italy and the hesitant start in Dublin last Monday may persuade the selectors to extract more intelligence than usual from the trial performances.

What makes the trial today so fascinating is that among the forwards only Ken Milne, the Heriot's FP hooker, is a certain choice for the Scotland team. The selectors have relegated Paul Burnell to the Reds team, but this may be a double ploy, first as shock treatment for the London Scot and second to provide opposition for Alan Sharp, the Bristol loose-head prop who looks the likely successor to David Sole.

Chris Gray and Doddie Weir, who played together in the World Cup, form the lock pairing in the Reds and will be opposite Damian Cronin and Andrew Reed, the former and present Bath locks. The selectors have a fifth choice in Shade Munro, who played impressively in Dublin.

The problem area for the Scotland selectors is the back row. With Rob Wainwright absent through injury, the two candidates for the No. 8 position are Dale McIntosh and Stuart Reid, of whom Reid, having played on the 1991 North American tour, may have the edge.

BLUES: G Hastings (Watsonians, captain); D Stark (Boroughmuir), G Townsend (Gala), S Hastings (Watsonians), M Appleson (London Scottish); C Chalmers (Melrose), G Armstrong (Jed-Forest); A Sharp (Bristol), K Milne (Heriot's FP), P Wright (Boroughmuir), D Turnbull (Hawick), A Reed (Bath), D Cronin (London Scottish), I Morrison (London Scottish), D McIntosh (Pontypridd).

REDS: K Logan (Stirling County); A Stanger (Hawick), I Jardine (Stirling County), D Wyllie (Stewart's-Melville FP), J Kerr (Haddington); G Shiel (Melrose), A Nicol (Dundee HSFP, captain); A Watt (Glasgow High-Kelvinside), I Corcoran (Gala), P Burnell (London Scottish), D McIvor (Edinburgh Academicals), C Gray (Nottingham), G Weir (Melrose), I Smith (Gloucester), S Reid (Boroughmuir).

Replacements: Backs: D Barrett (West of Scotland), D Cassie (Gloucester), A Donaldson (Currie), N Graclan (London Scottish), F Harrold (London Scottish), D Millard (London Scottish), M Moncrieff (Gala). Forwards: S Aitken (Watsonians), J Amos (Gala), G Isaac (Gala), A Macdonald (Heriot's FP), S Munro (Glasgow High-Kelvinside), J Robertson (Heriot's FP), M Scott (Edinburgh Academicals), G Wilson (Boroughmuir).

Referee: J Fleming (Boroughmuir).

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

Heineken League First division

Aberavon v Newbridge

Aberavon finalised their squad last night, but are without Dean Griffiths, the wing who has a broken wrist. Having beaten Neath on Boxing day, they hope for a league double over Newbridge, who move Hames to full back and give Glasson a first league game on the wing since April returns with Wake as his scrum half and Dafydd Evans, the Oxford blue, makes a league debut at lock.

Bridgend v Llanelli

Bridgend were unbeaten in all games in December and look for a happy new year against a weakened Llanelli. Moon, Copsey and Phil Davies were all injured in the East-West fixture on Monday and six others are out of action. Stephens

Newport v SW Police

Newport give Jason Williams his league debut at stand-off half and retain Roderick, late of Christ's College, Brecon, at scrum half. The Police have had little to celebrate this season, but will welcome the return from Cardiff of Collins, the former Wales flanker.

Pontypool v Neath

Chris Bridges, the former Neath scrum half, makes his league debut for Pontypool against the player who ousted him, Rhodri Jones. Hansen moves to stand-off and Meek returns to hook against a Neath team still without Brian Williams at prop.

Pontypridd v Cardiff

Pontypridd conceded 37 points in the first league meeting with Cardiff and 56 points on Boxing day; now they play the return league fixture without a clutch of injured or suspended forwards and with McIntosh at the Scottish trial. Cardiff give Walker a late fitness test, and Ford stands by on the wing.

Swansea v Maesteg

Swansea hope Clement will be fit to return at full back, and move Ball to centre. Buckett, the Oxford blue, is available once more at prop, and McBryde hooks against a Maesteg side missing the suspended Pincher in the front row and hoping it can move clear of the relegation zone in the new year.



At loggerheads: O'Neill, of Leeds, and Blakeley, of Salford, grappling for the ball at Headingley yesterday

Leeds bustle to score seven tries

Leeds	38
Salford	14

BY CERIS IRVINE

LEEDS are not yet the complete team that Doug Laughton, their coach, believes they can be. An unnerving frailty in defence continues to raise awkward questions. The opposite, however, goes for an attack only now reaching its thrilling potential, as Salford will testify after a seven-try reverse yesterday.

In Garry Schofield, Laughton can, though, boast the complete player. The Great Britain captain's hand in five of the tries lifted Leeds into seventh position in the Stones Bitter championship. Without his tackling under some surprising pressure by the visitors, Salford would have amassed more than their two touchdowns.

The jeers from some in the 14,828 crowd at Schofield's man-of-the-match award were ironic, but perhaps understandable given the enormous contribution of Ellery Hanley. The loose forward's inimitable raw strength and eye for the main chance absorbed Salford's defence for much of the afternoon. Hanley's sixteenth try of the season, in a runaway last half-hour, was no more than he merited.

Two second-half tries by Fallon, on the right wing, further vindicated Laughton's faith in his ability to go for the corner. In Tait, at full back, and the powerful mastery of Iro and Innes in the centre, a vintage 1993, if not in the league championship, would appear to beckon, most probably in the Challenge Cup.

And, yet, there were elements about the performance of Leeds, in spite of a seventh consecutive win at home, that go some way to explaining a pitiful travelling record. They have still to win away in nine league and cup matches. An alarming complacency in defence yesterday gave part of the answer.

Having built a comfortable ten-point lead, Leeds went into rest mode. O'Neill should never have bought the dummy by Blakeley for the first of Salford's tries, nor should Lee have been allowed the freedom he reveled in to go over for the second, which left Leeds trailing 14-12 in the 45th minute.

Immediately, Leeds dusted themselves down and picked off five splendid tries. This was a contrast to an often uncertain first half, when the ball was lost three times in decent positions, and only Schofield's fine tackle on Stazicker stalled Salford's increasing momentum.

Despite not having played throughout December because of the vagaries of the fixture-list, Coleman and Blakeley, at half back, caused Leeds numerous worries once they had rediscovered their rhythm. Until the home side eventually woke up to the size of its task, a first win at Headingley for 16 years appeared a probability.

Mistakes proved their undoing early on as Leeds fed an avaricious appetite for attack. A sloppy forward pass gave the home team a scrum, and on the last tackle, a 20-yard pass by Schofield sailed out to Dixon, who sent Tait burrowing over from Innes's slip pass for the first score.

After a long period of complacency, during which they were fortunate to concede only one goal by Blakeley, Schofield again opened up the Salford line, and Iro did well to collect Stephens's wayward pass to run round the posts.

Hanley made amends for his failure to collar Lee within minutes of Salford's second score. He battered his way through the congested midfield and ended up on a sweet move between Schofield and the impressive second row forward, Mercer.

The lay-off of five weeks left Salford flagging as Leeds became irresistible. Fallon and Mercer scored tries in the final quarter, but the best was by Irving, who tip-toed round two tackles inches from the left touchline, after Tait and Schofield, inevitably, had torn through the Salford defence.

SCORERS: Leeds: Tries: Fallon (2), Tait, Iro, Hanley, Irving, Mercer. Goals: Irving (5). Salford: Tries: Blakeley, Lee. Goals: Blakeley (3).

LEEDS: A Tait (sub: C Grice); J Fallon, K Iro, C Innes, S Irving; G Schofield; G Stephens; S Mulloy, J Lowes, M O'Neill (sub: P Anderson) P Dixon (sub: M O'Neill), G Mercer, E Hanley.

SALFORD: D Cruickshank; T Ellis, M Birkett (sub: J Gilfillan), J Critchley; P Ford; S Blakeley, C Coleman, D Young (sub: A Bradshaw), M Lee, G Stazicker (sub: D Young), A Bradshaw (sub: R Ackerman), I Blease, A Burgess.

Referee: R Smith.

Castleford save point

Stones Bitter championship

CASTLEFORD 22 WAKEFIELD 22

Castleford: Tries: Blackmore (2), Smith (2). Goals: Crooks (3). Wakefield: Tries: Wilson, Spencer, Jackson, Wright. Goals: Benson (2), W Conway. Att: 7,903.

LEEDS 38 SALFORD 14

Leeds: Tries: Fallon (2), Tait, Iro, Hanley, Mercer, Irving. Goals: Irving (5). Salford: Tries: Lee, Blakeley. Goals: Blakeley (3). Att: 14,828.

POSTPONED: First division: Sheffield v Halifax, Widnes v St Helens.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	12	10	0	2	326	159	20
St Helens	13	10	0	3	305	161	20
Castleford	14	8	1	5	320	209	17
Bradford	12	7	0	5	272	204	14
Hull	12	7	0	5	208	223	14
Sheffield	13	7	0	6	226	276	14
Leeds	14	6	1	7	310	261	13
Halifax	12	6	0	6	231	244	12
Wakefield	13	5	1	7	198	235	11
Widnes	11	5	0	6	200	186	10
Salford	12	5	0	7	200	269	10
Warrington	12	4	1	7	188	179	9
Hull KR	13	3	0	10	137	318	6
Leigh	13	2	2	9	142	328	6

SECOND DIVISION: Postponed: Swinton v Oldham.

THIRD DIVISION: Postponed: Batley v Dewsbury.

The leading pair in the derby match against Wakefield Trinity at Wheldon Road yesterday. Richie Blackmore and Tony Smith both touched down for the second time in the last three minutes to earn the point that keeps Castleford in contention for the Stones Bitter championship.

Castleford's Lee Crooks narrowly missed the conversion that would have deprived Wakefield Trinity of a well-deserved point.

Trinity took the lead inside two minutes when Darren Fritz, the Australian prop, sent Andy Wilson over, with Peter Benson converting.

A penalty by Crooks cut the deficit inside a minute before Gary Spencer crossed over for an unconverted score, but Tawera Nikau and Graham Steadman gave Blackmore his first try before half-time to leave Trinity 10-6 ahead.

Bagnell kicked through for Jackson to stretch Trinity's lead a minute after the interval, with Benson converting.

Castleford replied when Trinity failed to gather a high kick and Smith dived on the loose ball. A goal by Crooks took Castleford to within four points before Nigel Wright looked to have made the game safe when he regathered his own kick and scored with 16 minutes remaining.

But Trinity reckoned without Castleford's late comeback.

Four matches were postponed yesterday because of frost, Widnes against St Helens, Sheffield and Halifax, Swinton against Oldham and Batley versus Dewsbury.

Frustrated Howard left out in the cold

BY PETER BILLS

FRED Howard, controversially omitted from the England international referees' panel for the five nations' championship season, is now facing a long lay-off from the senior domestic game. Howard has not been given a single senior match to referee this month. His next is not until February 13 when he takes charge of the Rugby v Northampton league match.

During January, when there is one round of league matches and the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup, Howard will either be handling junior matches or nothing at all. Next Saturday, he has been given Caldy v Sedgeley Park, a club match on the Wirral; on cup day he has no match; and for January 30, he has been offered only a schools game, Cowley v Reigate.

Howard, whose marks by the refereeing assessors were said to have been higher than most other English officials, said he was utterly disappointed at his exclusion from the top-class game. "I am especially disappointed at the fact that my reports were apparently better than most. Had I not been up to form, I would have cheerfully accepted this decision."



Howard: whistle silent

The St Helens official has suggested he would prefer retirement to what he regards as unfair banishment to the lower ranks. But the news of his omission from important matches for the next six weeks even at club level brought condemnation yesterday from officials and players at the highest level.

Jamie Salmon, the former England and New Zealand centre who is now the Harlequins team manager, said: "Howard's exclusion from the international panel was greeted by the players with the utmost amazement. To hear he is now not even getting top club games is a ludicrous situation. It is not fair to the players of whom such high standards are being demanded. They should be given the best referees available and if Howard does not have a top game until February 13 that is clearly not happening.

"I doubt whether there are more than six decent referees in the country. I have enormous sympathy for referees because their job has become harder and harder.

"But last season we lost Ian Bullerwell, who was a very good referee, and now it seems we may lose Fred Howard. English rugby cannot afford to lose many more officials of this calibre, otherwise it will have serious problems."

Steve Brain, another former England international, said: "Howard is one of the best referees in the country and is regarded as such by practically all the first division players. It is an absolute farce that he should not be given a cup match or important league game. It makes you wonder whether this is a personality thing."

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Injured Smith is odd man out as England get down to cricket business

Gooch poised to drive his troubles away

FROM PETER BALL IN DELHI

FARIDABAD is not one of the most familiar staging posts on a tour of India. This time it is an important one, England beginning their opening match against Delhi, the Ranji Trophy champions, there tomorrow. If Graham Gooch uses the occasion to score his hundredth first-class century, Faridabad will become memorable as well as important.

With publicity over his marital problems, the England captain has not had a happy start to the tour. He is a consummate professional and it would be a telling declaration of intent if he began with a big score. He will not be the only player looking to make a mark tomorrow.

The opening match of a tour is often a gentle lead-in. With only three three-day matches before the Test matches start, and the first batch of one-day internationals even closer, England can afford no such luxury. Any fringe player will have to stake his claim dramatically if he is to force his way into the one-day or Test teams.

"Ideally you would like more time," Keith Fletcher agreed yesterday. "It would be ideal if you could play all the one-days together in a month either at the end or at the beginning of the tour."

As it is this match and next week's game with the Indian Board President's XI at Lucknow will be the only guidelines for selecting the one-day team, although Fletcher remarked: "We have got a very fair idea what our one-day side is."

For the moment the only certainty is that Robin Smith will not play tomorrow. Although Graeme Hick was hit on the forearm yesterday morning, as the seam bowlers once again showed their pace, and John Emburey has picked up an eye infection, Smith is the only injured player causing concern. His toe is still on the mend.

"I'm still hoping that Smith will be fit for the Lucknow game," Fletcher said. "His fracture was on a joint, so it needs three weeks to knit. That will take us to next Wednesday and by then he should be OK if he took a bang on it."

Smith said: "There is a very good competitive spirit among the players. I'm sorry to be missing out but my broken toe is recovering well and I should be able to have a full net on Monday. I'm pleased with the way things went today."

Smith, of course, is an integral part of the one-day team, and with the first international two weeks away there would be some concern if he does not play next week. The intention is that everybody will get a game either at Faridabad or Lucknow, although Richard Blakey, the reserve wicketkeeper, may find his opportunities limited. "We're looking to give all the players a game, but the one problem is Blakey," Fletcher said. "We need Alec Stewart to do quite a lot of keeping, so if both play in the same side one game we might let one do one day, and the other do the second innings."

Stewart, who took a blow on the hand during net practice on Thursday, was able to keep wicket in the nets yesterday. He is keeping wicket again in the team's practice match today when he leads his side against Gooch's.

Emburey is included in Stewart's XI along with Mike Atherton, Neil Fairbrother, Dermot Reeve, Chris Lewis, Paul Taylor and Ian Salisbury; Gooch is joined by Blakey, Hick, Mike Gatting, Phil DeFreitas, Paul Jarvis, Devon Malcolm and Phil Tufnell.

Six local players are being borrowed to make the teams up to a full XI, and with side stakes being discussed it is likely to be fairly competitive. It may also be important for some players, with the competition for seam bowling places already intense.

"We will pick 12 for Faridabad, and both spinners will definitely be in the 12," Fletcher said. "It is possible that we will leave out one of the more senior seam bowlers so that we have one experienced seam bowler working with two of the less experienced ones."

Off the field, there are still problems to be ironed out, with travel and the continuing disturbances in the wake of the destruction of the Muslim temple at Ayodhya giving concern. Matters remain tense in Ahmedabad, the venue for the first one-day international on January 16.

Yesterday's editorial in the *Times of India* on the continuing strife in the province of Gujerat did not make encouraging reading. "Every day, vendors of hate and prejudice engage one another, especially in Ahmedabad.

"Almost half of the cities and towns are still under partial or complete curfew, firing and stabbings are frequent occurrences." And, perhaps of greatest concern to the tour management, "an overstretched police force has proved unequal to the task".

It is hard to imagine an over-stretched police force will welcome having a one-day match to patrol.

There is also the airline strike. The team is booked to leave Ahmedabad on a scheduled service which has been cancelled. Bob Bennett, however, has been assured by the Indian board that the team will fly and he is accepting that assurance at face value.



Net gains: Gooch and Fletcher, the England captain and manager, wrap up practice in Delhi yesterday

Australia looking to the power of spin

Sydney: Allan Border, the Australia captain, is planning to exploit a pitch expected to suit the spinners and put the Test series beyond West Indies' reach in the third Test *match starting here today.*

Border's team, which won the second Test in Melbourne by 139 runs after an incisive spell of seven for 52 from the leg spinner, Shane Warne, feels Sydney provides the ideal conditions to secure another victory for a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Australia are further encouraged by their awareness that even when West Indies were at their most dominant during the 1980s they suffered emphatic defeats at the Sydney Cricket Ground. West Indies lost there during their 3-1 series victories in Australia in 1984-5 and 1988-9.

The pitch for today's match *is a flat, brown strip almost* devoid of grass which should favour spin. When Ian Bishop, the West Indies fast bowler, saw the pitch he made a plaintive cry of "where's the grass?"

Border hopes that the combination of Warne and Greg Matthews, the off spinner, will be decisive. "That wicket seems to be just what the doctor ordered for us," he said. "It looks like it's going to play very well but hopefully assist the spinners. That's basically what we wanted to happen and I'm really happy with it. There's no safety-first stuff and we are going to go straight for the jugular."

Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, remains optimistic. "We are a good enough team to beat Australia and if we play well, we will beat them. We have done it quite a lot to come from behind." West Indies have not lost a Test series since being beaten by New Zealand in 1980.

Craig McDermott, the Australia fast bowler, came through a strenuous net yesterday and looks virtually certain to play after doubts over a thigh injury. West Indies have dropped their wicketkeeper, David Williams, in favour of Junior Murray, who will make his Test debut.

Border goes into the match *needing only 144 runs to* overtake Sunil Gavaskar as the leading run-scorer in Test cricket. Gavaskar, of India, scored 10,122 during his Test career. Border, 37, has never scored a Test century at Sydney. *(Agencies)*

AUSTRALIA (from): A R Border (captain), M A Taylor, D C Boon, S R Waugh, M E Waugh, D R Martyn, G R J Matthews, I A Healy, M G Hughes, C J McDermott, S K Warne, M R Whitney.
WEST INDIES: R B Richardson (captain), D L Haynes, P V Simmons, B C Lara, K L T Arthurton, C L Hooper, J C Adams, J R Murray, C E L Ambrose, I R Bishop, C A Walsh. Twelfth man: A L Logie.

MCC campaigners accused of not playing the game

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLONEL John Stephenson, secretary of MCC, yesterday accused the campaigners who are calling for a vote of no confidence in England's cricket selectors of breaking "a gentleman's agreement". Stephenson was furious that the letter the rebels are sending to MCC members stating "the case for the prosecution" was published yesterday.

Drafted by Donald Trelford, editor of *The Observer*, the letter stated that he and his colleagues would be calling for "an improvement in the standards of those who run the greatest game on our, the public's, behalf".

The debate, sparked by the exclusion of David Gower from the England party touring India and fuelled by a member of MCC, Dennis Oliver, will come to a head in three weeks' time.

The 17,500 members of the MCC will be asked to support a vote of no confidence in the selectors at a special general meeting at the City Hall, Westminster, on January 27 — two days before the start of the first Test match between England and India.

According to Stephenson, the MCC was planning to send out a brochure to members stating the cases "for and against" next Wednesday. That plan was pre-empted when the campaigners' letter was printed in the *Daily Telegraph*, signed by Trelford, Oliver, Lord Bonham-Carter and Lord Gilmour.

"All I can say is that I'm very angry because they have breached an agreement we had," Stephenson said. "I think it's appalling what they have done. It's not playing the game or behaving properly at all."

Stephenson said that it was MCC policy not to reveal the contents of any letter until it had been sent to members. He added that the committee's statement had been drafted and would not be changed.

Trelford, however, insisted that there had been "no breach of any agreement". He said: "Our interest is in having this matter openly debated among all cricket followers. As usual, the MCC are on the defensive instead of encouraging an open discussion about cricket."

While the Gower issue instigated a split within the MCC and has led to the special general meeting, estimated to be costing £17,000, the case against the England selectors is taken further.

"In many people's view, the selectors' sins of omission were not confined to Gower. There was bafflement at the absence of a specialist wicketkeeper for spin bowlers, especially when one of Jack Russell's proven ability was available," the campaigners said in their letter.

"Our interest in pursuing this course is to give all MCC members an opportunity to hear or express a view about the manifest deficiencies in the system of selection and style of the England team management — and about the damage we believe these are doing the game. The rejection of Gower is a manifestation and symbol of these deficiencies."

Responding to the claim that Gower, 35, was omitted from the party because of his age, the campaigners said: "The selectors' response to criticism has not been consistent, coherent, temperate or mature."

The letter continued: "We claim no right to select the England cricket team but we believe we reflect the sense of dissatisfaction among countless supporters that something is wrong with the leadership and administration of the game.

"There are two prime forces in cricket — the players and the public; ignoring the interests of either is bound to damage the game.

"A vote against our motion will be interpreted as support for the selectors' decision to reject Gower or for the view that MCC members have no right to be heard on such matters."



Stephenson: angry

☐ **Hobart:** A career-best haul of five for 40 from Neil *Maxwell and a maiden first-*class century by Geoff Allardice put Victoria in a match-winning position against Tasmania in the Sheffield Shield match here yesterday. At the close of the second day, Tasmania were 185 for nine, still needing 83 runs to avoid the follow-on. Victoria declared their first innings at 417 for seven during the first session after Allardice hit 116. Maxwell captured four wickets in 25 balls. *(Agencies).*

South Africans make about-turn over pace

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN CAPE TOWN

AFTER the South African selectors looked at the Newlands pitch here yesterday, they revised their thinking for the fourth and final Test match with India starting today.

Their original intention to rely on fast bowling alone has been scrapped and Henry, the left-arm spinner, has retained his place. They will still give a first Test cap to DaryllCullinan, which means an extra batsman in the side, and they will include only four bowlers.

Henry, though, represents a *compromise on how it is* thought the pitch might play. Clearly something went awry with cricket's unspoken custom in which the host country unofficially marks the groundsman's card on the sort of surface that should be provided.

Peter Pollock, the chairman of selectors, admitted that the pitch would not be as hard and bouncy as expected and that the ball could turn as the game progressed.

These conditions had also encouraged the selectors to prefer Matthews, who has an ability to "skid" the ball, rather than to play Schultz, who relies more on raw pace.

Cullinan, 25, who two years ago played with Ickenham in the Thames Valley League, has had to wait a long time for his chance.

He has lived through eight seasons with the burden of being hailed as the new Barry Richards after becoming, at the age of 16, the youngest South African in history to score a first-class century. Cullinan's strokemaking ability has never been doubted, but his batting has always been inconsistent and he has had more than one brush with authority, as well as teammates, during his career.

He has not been in especially good form this year and the match is regarded as a make-or-break occasion for him on several counts.

India, who are 1-0 down in the series, will have to show a remarkable improvement after a moderate tour if they are to draw level.

South Africa start clear favourites but if the pitch should help spin bowling from early on, then the gap between the teams might yet prove narrower than previously thought.

India's team selection has been eased by a freakish accident in practice to Raman, the left-handed opening batsman. He is suffering from blurred vision after being hit in the eye at short range by a ball as he bent to pick up a thigh pad off the ground. Raman has been included in India's 12, but seems unlikely to be fit.

India were originally thinking of dropping Manjrekar, who has been out of touch. As it is, Manjrekar could keep his place. Prabhakar will open with Jadeja and five bowlers will definitely be included.

About the time the match starts, Shastri will be having a knee ligament operation in the city's Groote Schur hospital, best known for its heart transplant cases. Shastri is unlikely to be fit for the first three one-day games being played by England in India this month. Several others among the Indians need a good performance in this Test if they are to be certain of keeping their places when they get home.

SOUTH AFRICA: K C Wessels (capt), A C Hudson, P N Kirsten, J N Rhodes, W J Cronje, D J Cullinan, B M McMillan, D J Richardson, O Henry, C R Matthews, A A Donald.
INDIA (from): M Azharuddin (capt), A D Jadeja, W V Raman, S V Manjrekar, S R Tendulkar, P K Amre, Kapil Dev, K S More, M Prabhakar, A R Kumble, S L V Raju, J Srinath.
Umpires: D R Shepherd (Eng), S B Lambson, K E Liebenber (SA).

New Zealand may be without Crowe

Hamilton: Martin Crowe, the New Zealand captain, is doubtful for the Test match against Pakistan starting here today. Crowe severely bruised his hand while fielding in the final one-day international on Wednesday.

Crowe's absence would be a heavy blow to his side. He is its leading batsman and top-scored in each of the three one-day internationals. New Zealand are already without John Wright, who was called up to bolster the batting against Pakistan's hostile pace attack but who broke a finger earlier in the week. He will be replaced by the inexperienced Blair Hartland.

Pakistan's concern is their batting, which was poor during the World Series Cup in Australia and the one-day international series in New Zealand. *(Reuter)*

NEW ZEALAND (probable): M D Crowe (captain), M J Greatbatch, B R Hartland, A H Jones, K R Rutherford, C Z Harris, D N Patel, A C Parore, D K Morrison, M L Su'a, M B Owens, W Watson.
PAKISTAN (from): Javed Miandad (captain), Ramiz Raja, Aamir Sohail, Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Asif Mujtaba, Shahid Saeed, Saeed Anwar, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Aqib Javed, Naveed Anjum, Ata-ur-Rehman.

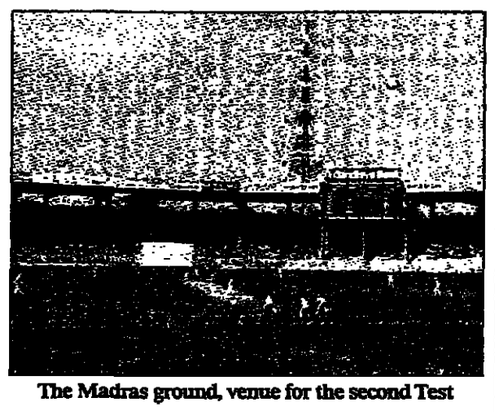
☐ **Lahore:** Imran Khan, the former Pakistan captain, has been appointed an honorary adviser to the Pakistan board. He will help formulate an international calendar for the national and under-19 sides during the next ten years. Pakistan must also overcome difficulties in their bid with India and Sri Lanka to host the next World Cup. *(AFP)*

See and enjoy the Tests in Madras and Bombay

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The Madras ground, venue for the second Test

Next month you could be in India, sitting in the sun watching England in the second and third Test matches. From the best seats available at the Chepauk ground, Madras, and the Wankhede Stadium in Bombay, you could see the aggressive batting of Gooch, Gatting and Smith, the spin bowling of Tufnell and Emburey and the pace of DeFreitas.

Or appreciate the batting skills of Manjrekar and the 19-year-old Tendulkar, the world's leading all-rounder, Kapil Dev, and the bowling of Kumble and Prabhakar.

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Here is a brief taste of what we have organised:

ITINERARY

Tuesday Feb 9 Leave London Heathrow airport for Madras.
Feb 10 Arrive Madras and transfer to the Park Sheraton Hotel for a seven-night stay. Cocktail reception for readers, which will be attended by Peter Ball, who is covering the tour for *The Times*.
Feb 11-15 See the second Test in Madras.
Feb 16 Half-day sightseeing tour of Madras.
Feb 17 Early-morning flight to Bombay and transfer to the Oberoi Towers Hotel for a seven-night stay.
Feb 18 Half-day sightseeing tour of Bombay.
Feb 19-23 See the third Test in Bombay. After the final day's play, there will be a farewell cocktail party and dinner at Oberoi Towers.
Feb 24 Return flight to London, arriving Heathrow later the same morning.

THE COST

Included in the price of £1,725 per person (sharing a twin-bedded room: single supplement £489) are: Flights with Air India and Indian Airlines, best available seats for the second and third Tests, 14 nights, hotel accommodation with breakfast, two half-day sightseeing tours, two cocktail parties and farewell dinner in Bombay, Kuoni travel bag, all coach transfers in airconditioned coaches, and the services of Kuoni representatives in Madras and Bombay.
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CYCLING: WELCOME ABSENCE OF WIND BUT FAST TIMES RULED OUT BY COLD AND MISTS

Surprise success for King in opening time-trial



Baker: defends title

BY PETER BRYAN

JEREMY King, four years ago a self-styled "layabout", decided to buy a bike and ride to the chemical plant where he works at Haverhill. From that moment he was hooked, he said yesterday after he had become 1993's first winner.

The time-trial season, once lasting eight months but now stretched to a full year by enthusiasts, started with a welcome absence of wind, but cold and mists ruled out fast times.

King won the CC Breckland 10 near Wymondham in 22min 48sec — two minutes slower than his personal best, but a victory which delighted him as he was only fifth in the 1992 event.

He accepted that the result might have been different if Martin Pyne, former British 25-miles champion and winner of 43 time-trials last year, had been well enough to compete after a week-long bout of influenza.

Even with Pyne absent, King was surprised to win. A first-class field of challengers, led by Gary Empson, who broke the national 30-miles record in 1991, could not get within 20 seconds of the bearded King, whose pattern of shift work gives him a straight four days off.

This season King will concentrate on a specialist series of time-trials on sporting courses rather than main roads.

Any suggestion of a challenge to his claim as the year's first winner disappeared when the start of the Southborough and District 10 was delayed for half an hour because of thick mist at Beverstone (Kent) and the distance reduced to nine miles.

Malcolm Whitehead (VC Deal) won in 19min 56sec, a 45sec advantage over Andy Verrall (VC Elan) and, more importantly, a 13sec margin over the national record-breaking tandem pair, Vic Haines and Chris Worsfold.

David Baker, the Raleigh professional, defends his British open cyclo-cross title at Wolverhampton tomorrow.

Patient policy pays for member of the old school

Richard Evans, racing correspondent, finds that traditional standards and winners go hand in hand for trainer Andy Turnell

If Country Member gains his fourth win of the season in the Mandarin Handicap Chase at Newbury this afternoon, it will be a landmark for Andy Turnell — and deserved reward for patience and time-honoured values.

Victory would provide the East Hendred trainer with his nineteenth winner of the season and equal his previous best tally, achieved five seasons ago, with half the campaign remaining.

Turnell helps form the backbone of National Hunt racing. Aged 44, he was a jockey for 19 years before retiring in 1982 to succeed his father, Bob, as a trainer.

A traditionalist, in the best sense, he believes in giving horses time, not rushing or over-racing them, in the hope that they will develop into decent chasers. Loyalty — to owners and from lads and riders — matters. His stables, opposite the Plough public house, are immaculate.

The Turnell beliefs and methods stem from the influence of two of racing's most respected figures — his father and Jim Joel.

"Mr Joel was such a gentleman," Turnell said. "I think sub-consciously I was always trying to do things how he would like them done. I used to speak to him every week about his horses and you would get to know how he was thinking.

"He was a real old-school owner. He had such influence, even on things like general behaviour. It was rather like training for the Queen.

"By far the biggest influence on my racing career was my father. He believed in giving horses time. He was a great trainer and, although things have changed a bit nowadays, his ideas were correct.

"I don't think it is an accident that some trainers have lots of horses and lots of winners but rarely get a Champion Hurdle or Gold Cup horse, and then you get a trainer like Fulke Walwyn who continuously produced horses at the top level."

Turnell believes in treating horses as individuals. "Some need more work than others," he explained, "but the biggest mistake people make is not giving young horses a chance.

"Obviously a young horse has got to be fit, but once it is fit, you can't get it fitter. I think a lot of races are left at home. I don't think it is very clever to win eight or ten races with a horse in one season and run it 20 times.

"In the same way, I am against all these long-distance races. When I was a boy, there were only about four races over more than three and a quarter miles. Now they are every week. Horses can't stand it. They might do it for a season, but I think it ruins them."

During the past decade, Turnell's philosophy has produced a steady flow of winners thanks to decent horses like Secret Ballot, Tawridge, Maori Venture, who won the 1987 Grand National, and, more recently, Katabatic. Suddenly, for no apparent reason, the flow has turned into a gush.

Country Member and Storm Alert are both unbeaten this season and have won a total of seven chases. Cogent and Around The Horn are impressive novices with two victories apiece, while "The Kat" remains top class.

Turnell has not changed his methods. "I am not doing anything different but we have got some nice horses at the moment," he explained. "I try to buy horses as four-year-olds which have a bit of size and will hopefully go chasing. It usually takes two years to find out if they are any good and two or three years before they go chasing. It's such a hit-and-miss game."

One reason for Turnell's better strike-rate is the decision of two Americans to become involved in jump racing in Britain.

Richard Gilder, a stockbroker based in New York, and his brother-in-law, Jim Chromiack, formed Pell-mell Partners and have enjoyed remarkable success with horses trained by Turnell, Josh Gifford and Jeremy Glover.

Katabatic, one of the first horses Turnell bought for them, has turned out to be the best to have passed through his hands.

"What has never happened to me before, riding or training, with 'The Kat' is that he keeps on getting better. It's becoming quite worrying in a nice sort of way.

"I do really get pretty hyped up when he runs. I am worried the bubble is going to burst. It's possible he's the best horse in England and I am praying it will stay that way."

The Queen Mother Champion Chase beckons in March but Turnell is already looking ahead to 1994. "There is nothing like the Gold Cup. He definitely stays two and half miles and, as he gets older, he should stay further. This time next year I think we will be thinking about the Gold Cup rather than the Queen Mother."

Dreams, hopes, ambitions. "Training is a bit like riding. You always wish people luck and hope you get some yourself. In jump racing there is less envy. Everyone knows how badly it can go."

Patience is gaining its reward for Turnell, but he is only too aware that everything can change so quickly. "Racing is so fickle. It's like show business. No one wants you when you are down, but if you are having winners . . ."



Best to come: Turnell is just one winner short of his previous top score with five months left

MOTOR RALLYING

Citroëns set pace in cold warm-up

Chailley, France: Citroën's Pierre Lartigue and Ari Vatanen won the first skirmish in their two-week battle with Mitsubishi drivers on the Paris-Dakar rally yesterday.

Lartigue, of France, and Vatanen, from Finland, braved the freezing conditions to deliver identical times in the 3.5km prologue. They completed the circuit in 3min 3sec in their ZX cars — a good omen for Vatanen, who has won the race four times in the past.

"More than anything else, I was trying to be careful," Lartigue said. "The ground was hard as concrete."

Despite the morale boost for Citroën, the Mitsubishis were only a second behind. They filled the first three places in the Paris-Cape Town rally last year that replaced the Paris-Dakar.

Bruno Saby, of France, and Erwin Weber, of Germany, led the charge, finishing with the same time as a third Citroën ZX driven by last year's winner, the Frenchman, Hubert Auriol.

Jean Brucey, a stockroom assistant who prepared his Honda NX 650 by himself, was a surprise winner of the motorcycle prologue, with the Yamaha favourites falling by the wayside.

Stephane Peterhansel, of France, looking for his third consecutive victory, came last when his Yamaha suffered fuel problems.

The 66 cars and 46 bikes left the official start at six in the morning. The first stage proper, from Fez to Beni Ounif, starts in Morocco on Tuesday. The competitors will cover 8,900km (5,531 miles) through Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and Senegal. *(AFP)*

RESULTS: Prologue: Cars: equal 1, P Lartigue (Fr), Citroën ZX, and A Vatanen (Fin), Citroën ZX, 3min 03sec; equal 3, B Saby (Fr), Mitsubishi Pajero, E Weber (Ger), Mitsubishi Pajero, and H Auriol (Fr), Citroën ZX, at 1 sec; 6, T Salonen (Fin), Citroën ZX, at 5. Motorcycles: 1, J Brucy (Fr), Honda, 3min 18sec; 2, P Sireyeol (Fr), Suzuki, at 11sec; 3, M Marmiroli (It), Gilera, at 16; 4, A Tramelli (It), Kawasaki, at 17; 5, L Ramel (Fr), Honda, at 21.

NFL American football season gets down to serious business of play-offs

Teams reach the point of no return

BY RICHARD WETHERELL

NO MATTER how good a record has been compiled during the regular NFL season, it is only when January and the sudden-death play-offs arrive that the stakes are high enough for the non-partisans to get involved.

This year, there are some less familiar names among the usual gathering of the San Francisco 49ers, Washington Redskins and Buffalo Bills. The Pittsburgh Steelers, Minnesota Vikings and San Diego Chargers won their respective divisions, all with new coaches. Bill Cowher led the Steelers to their first championship since 1984; it took three years and Dennis Green for the Vikings to win anything and Bobby Ross took the Chargers to the top, something they have not experienced since 1981.

With none of the six divisional championships being successfully defended this year, there has been a rare turnover of titles with the Chargers proving the most surprising winners, especially as they started the season with four defeats. They rather sneaked past their main rivals, the Kansas City Chiefs, who they meet tonight, thanks to a combination of the Chiefs' inconsistency and their own relatively easy schedule. They played Seattle, who finished with the worst record in the NFL (2-14) twice, Cincinnati (5-11) and Tampa Bay (5-11) once.

A worry for the Chargers is that Stan Humphries, their quarterback, dislocated his left shoulder last Sunday. The decision as to whether he plays could be decided as late as the pre-match warm-ups. Bob Gagliano will replace Humphries if necessary.

Another quarterback in the wars is Jim Kelly, of the Bills. Out of the play-offs because of a sprained knee, his perennial back-up, Frank Reich, faced the Houston Oilers. In eight years with the Bills, Reich has started just six games, winning four.

The two losses came when the Bills had already won the division. It is the first time in five years they have failed to do so and it came about because of a 27-3 loss to the Oilers last week.

In tonight's other match, the reigning Super Bowl champions, the Washington Redskins, visit Minnesota Vikings. The Redskins scraped into the play-offs with a 9-7 record and have had a spluttering offense all year, but their coach, Joe Gibbs, is renowned for getting things right when it matters. If he fails to inspire his side, the Vikings defense will take good advantage, having played more than its fair share in getting them this far by having scored six touchdowns after intercepting passes.

There is likely to be a vast contrast between the two games tomorrow. Houston and Buffalo are feared for their potent offense while, in the NFC match, the Philadelphia Eagles and the New Orleans Saints will seek to dominate with their defense.

Four teams have a welcome respite, returning next week to start their campaign to Pasadena. Thanks to winning their divisions with the best records within their conferences, San Francisco, the Dallas Cowboys, Pittsburgh and the Miami Dolphins can focus a week ahead and rest some battered bodies.

Cowher, Green and Ross will be less impressed than most that only three coaches have won the Super Bowl in their first season. George Seifert was one of those and he will be looking for his San Francisco team, which compiled the best record (14-2), to repeat his triumph of 1990. With the league's top-rated quarterback in Steve Young and the all-time touchdown reception holder, Jerry Rice, on board, they have a better chance than most.

FIXTURES: Today: Washington Redskins at Minnesota Vikings; Kansas City Chiefs at San Diego Chargers. Tomorrow: Houston Oilers at Buffalo Bills; Philadelphia Eagles at New Orleans Saints. January 9 and 10: Divisional play-offs. January 17: Conference Championship games. January 31: Super Bowl (at Pasadena).

DIVISION WINNERS: For the first time since 1970, when the NFL and AFL merged into the six-division NFL, none of the divisional championships were successfully defended. The 1992 champions were: AFC: East: Miami Dolphins (11-5). Central: Pittsburgh Steelers (11-5). West: San Diego Chargers (11-5). NFC: East: Dallas Cowboys (13-3). Central: Minnesota Vikings (11-5). West: San Francisco 49ers (14-2).

VICTORIES: Nine teams won at least 11 games in 1992, the most since 1980. The nine were: AFC: Pittsburgh Steelers (11-5), Miami Dolphins (11-5), San Diego Chargers (11-5) and Buffalo Bills (11-5). NFC: San Francisco 49ers (14-2), Dallas Cowboys (13-3), New Orleans Saints (12-4), Minnesota Vikings (11-5) and Philadelphia Eagles (11-5).

SKI JUMPING

First jump sets up victory

Garmisch-Partenkirchen: Noriaki Kasai, of Japan, won the World Cup event here yesterday after a desperately close battle with Jens Weissflog, the German veteran. Kasai, 20, picked up 220.8 points after a magnificent first jump of 108.5 metres and a second of 97.5 metres.

Weissflog amassed 219.4 points after managing 104 metres and 98.5 metres. Andreas Goldberger, of Austria, was third. The victory moved Kasai, a member of the Japan squad at the Albertville Olympics, into joint third place in the World Cup standings. There was disappointment for the leader, Werner Rathmayr, of Austria, who could only manage fifth. *(AFP)*

RESULT: 1, N Kasai (Japan), 220.8pts; 2, J Weissflog (Ger), 219.4; 3, A Goldberger (Austria), 216.5; 4, I Lunardi (It), 211.1; 5, W Rathmayr (Austria), 210.8; 6, A Scherer (Ger), 209.3. Overall: 1, Rathmayr, 132pts; 2, Goldberger, 67; equal 3, C Duffner (Ger) and Kasai, 51; 5, M Holwerth (Austria), 47; equal 6, S Dalaup (Fr) and B Myrbekken (Nor), 43.

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THE TIMES

NORTHWEST AIRLINES

Some People Just Know How To Fly."

PRIVILEGE PASS

TOKEN 6

TODAY'S COMPETITION

See the world's greatest ice hockey players in action at the 1993 National Hockey League Final, The Stanley Cup, and experience one of the world's fastest and most competitive sports. *The Times* is offering two tickets to the final in this, the centennial year of the competition. The winner and partner will be flown by Northwest Airlines to the event, the venue of which has yet to be decided by the competing teams. The two teams currently setting the game alight are the Calgary Flames and the Edmonton Oilers. The final will be held in late May or early June, and full details of the venue, accommodation at a top hotel, and departure dates will be confirmed when the two finalists are known.

To enter, answer the questions below and send your answers on a postcard to: *The Times*/Northwest Hockey competition, 5 Britton's Court, London EC8S 1NG.

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received by Tuesday January 19.

1. Which NHL team won the Stanley Cup Championships in 1992?
2. Which NHL player holds the record for the most goals ever scored by a single player?
3. Which NHL team has won the most Stanley Cup Championships?

TENNIS: SPLIT REPUBLIC MAKES HISTORIC APPEARANCE IN MIXED TEAM HOPMAN CUP

Czech pairing chooses to play under new flag

Perth: Petr Korda and Jana Novotna will make an historic first sporting appearance for the new Czech Republic in the 12-nation Hopman Cup mixed teams tournament starting today.

Both Korda and Novotna, the No. 2 seeds, said they wished to play under the new flag of their country, which formally came into being yesterday with the split from Slovakia.

"The pair reconfirmed their Czech nationality and indicated they would play for the new republic," the Cup chairman, Paul McNamee, said.

Last year, the annual tournament featured the world sporting debut of a Commonwealth of Independent States team with Andrei Cherkasov and Natalia Zvereva on court.

Korda, last year's French Open finalist, and Novotna, the No. 1 women's doubles player, will face a tough challenge in the fifth year of the Cup from the German favourites and top seeds, Michael Stich and Steffi Graf.

Graf, the world No. 2, will use the Aus $700,000 (£318,000) event as preparation for the year's first grand-slam tournament, the Australian Open, later this month.



Novotna: Czech choice

She will be trying to erase the memory of a disastrous start to 1992 when, playing with Boris Becker, she was struck down by a virus in Perth and was later forced to withdraw from the Open.

Stich, teaming up with Graf for the first time in a mixed doubles, arrives fresh from winning the Grand Slam Cup in Munich. He has proved himself one of the world's best doubles players, winning Wimbledon last year with John McEnroe.

Germany open their campaign on Tuesday against the winners of tomorrow's match between Austria and the Ukraine.

The unique tournament also features a South African team for the first time, altering the Republic's emergence from sporting isolation. South Africa will be represented by the top-20 player, Wayne Ferreira, and Amanda Coetzer.

Switzerland, who won the tournament last year, have been weakened by the late withdrawal of Jakob Hlasek, whose 1992 partner, Manuela Maleeva-Fragnière, will be joined by Claudio Mezzadri, ranked 97th in the world.

Under the competition format, each tie features one women's singles, one men's singles and one mixed doubles. The semi-finals are on January 6 and 7, with the final on January 8.

The South Africans will play the first match of the tournament against the Australian pair, Wally Masur, the country's No. 1 player, and Nicole Provis.

The top four seeds — Germany, the Czech Republic, Spain and the United States — receive a first-round bye. *(Reuter)*

SEEDINGS: 1, Germany (M Stich and S Graf); 2, Czech Republic (P Korda and J Novotna); 3, Spain (E Sánchez and A Sánchez Vicario); 4, United States (M Washington and M J Fernandez); 5, France (G Forget and N Tauziat); 6, Switzerland (C Mezzadri and M Maleeva-Fragnière); 7, South Africa (W Ferreira and A Coetzer) 8, Austria (T Muster and J Wiesner).

☐ The tNo. 1 seed, Alex Osterrieth, reached the semi-finals of the Midland Bank 16 and under national championships yesterday with an easy victory over Jamie Bartlett.

Bartlett, who was 16 yesterday, lost 6-1, 6-0 to Osterrieth, from Kent, who will play Martin Lee, from Sussex, in the semi-finals at Telford.

SQUASH

Senior English referees squeezed out by players

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

TWO of England's most senior and respected referees, Mike Picken and David Stevenson, have been excluded from a new elite group of world referees after being effectively vetoed by the International Squash Players' Association (Ispa).

Before restructuring the organisation of international referees late last year, the World Squash Federation (WSF) took widespread soundings to find a group of accepted international referees who were also recognised as expert in match control and understanding of on-court player strategy.

Picken and Stevenson, veterans of world tour, world championship and British Open matches over the past two decades, were at the top of most proposed lists but were deliberately not included by Ispa, whose board went so far as to recommend that neither should continue even as international referees.

Picken, a Telford supermarket director, who was the last chairman of the Squash Referees Society, a member of the now disbanded WSF rules committee and who still sits on the English refereeing committee, said: "I am dismayed and disappointed after all the effort of the past few years.

"It seems very dangerous for the WSF to start allowing the players to dictate their preferences for referees. I don't think it happens in any other sport. What happens when they come to dislike the new lot?"

Stevenson, a senior education officer in Cleveland, believes they have become victims of their own level of activity. "We have taken much of the load in recent years and often, as tournament referees, consciously scheduled ourselves on to the tougher matches. Perhaps our reputations have accumulated more than some of the new world referee list who have rarely been seen at the top level of the game."

Ted Wallbutton, the WSF executive director, sees the new list as an interim set-up on the way to attracting former professional players into top refereeing. "Their existence in no way diminishes the continuing rank of international referee, among whom Picken and Stevenson are valued representatives."

Under the chairmanship of Suzi Simcock, of New Zealand, a new WSF refereeing review board will oversee promotion and demotion of world referees on a four-year cycle. The review board comprises Tony Swift, of Canada, as director, Graham Dixon, of England, and Dorothy Armstrong, of Ireland, as assessors, Paul Carter and Lisa Opie as representatives of the player organisations and either Mark Maclean, of Scotland, or Ross Norman, of New Zealand, as independent player adviser.

The WSF approved list of world referees is: Chris Evans (New Zealand), Mike Fitchett (Scotland), Jack Flynn (Ireland), Desmond Hill (Singapore), Bruce Kettle (England), Graham Waters (Canada).

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Jodami to strengthen cup claims

JODAMI can strengthen his Cheltenham Gold Cup claims by defying 12 stone in the Mandarin Handicap Chase at Newbury today.

One of last season's best novice chasers, Jodami has continued to progress and, although beaten on his two starts this term, the form of both races now bears the closest inspection.

At Haydock on his seasonal reappearance, Peter Beaumont's gelding failed by three lengths to concede 5lb to Run For Free in the Edward Hanmer Memorial Chase, the winner going on to complete a valuable treble with runaway victories in the Rehearsal Chase and Coral Welsh National, both at Chepstow.

Sent off favourite for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup on the strength of that Haydock run, Jodami proved too strong at the weights for all the other fancied contestants but was touched off by the 40-1 chance Sibton Abbey, racing from 21lb out of the handicap.

The Fellow, a fine third off 11st 13lb, returned to England to capture his second [redacted] King George VI Chase at Kempton four weeks later while Rowlandsons Jewels, Captain Dibble and Twin Oaks, who finished sixth, seventh and eighth respectively, have all underlined the merit of the Hennessy with subsequent victories.

Gambling Royal, 13 lengths behind Jodami in fifth, reopposes here but cannot be expected to turn the tables on only 5lb better terms, especially as he has since failed to complete in the SGB Chase at Ascot.

A greater threat may come from Country Member, who has looked a much-improved performer in winning his three races at Wincanton, Newbury and Sandown this season, and represents Andy Turnell's in-form East Hendred yard.

The Queen Mother's Keep Talking would have possibilities if able to reproduce the form which saw win the National Hunt Chase at the Cheltenham festival while the progressive Logamimo makes the trek from Durham in search of a four-timer. However, Jodami boasts the best credentials.

Martin Pipe, in outstanding form since Christmas, can capture the other two televised races with **Lord Relic** (1.10) and **Noble Insight** (1.40), both of whom are making quick reappearances.

Lord Relic, a 30-length scorer at Chepstow on Monday, will find the opposition much tougher in the Challow Hurdle but should be up to the task as he had previously looked an exceptional recruit when winning in fair company at Uttoxeter.

Noble Insight showed much-improved form when winning a valuable handicap from 10lb out of the weights at Kempton on Boxing day and can prove that performance was no fluke in the Ladbroke Racing Welfare Handicap Hurdle.

Mutare is napped to make a winning return in the Hungerford Handicap Chase. Denied a run at Cheltenham yesterday by the weather, Nicky Henderson's eight-year-old looks on a handy mark here, bearing in mind his excellent novice chase form last season.

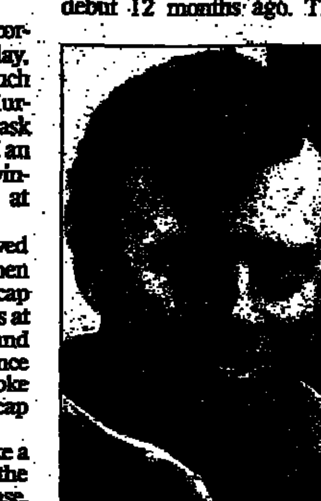
Although a winner over three miles at Kempton, Mutare will not be inconvenienced by today's shorter trip as he won over two miles five furlongs at Towcester on his seasonal debut 12 months ago. That victory, by a distance, also showed his ability to give of his best without a *previous run*.

Scrutineer, heavily backed to win the Triumph Hurdle without having jumped a flight in public, will be a warm order for the Wickham Novices' Hurdle and should beat a big field in style.

Mary Reveley looks the trainer to follow at Ayr, where she can land a treble with **Majed** (12.15), **Candy Tuff** (1.15) and **Holdenby** (1.50).

Montpelier Lad, winner of the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle at Liverpool as a four-year-old, can make a winning debut over fences for Gordon Richards in the Hurlford Novices' Chase.

Thistle Monarch should return to winning ways and complete a double for Richards and Neale Doughty in the Coylton National Hunt Novices' Handicap Hurdle.


Henderson: winning chance for Mutare

Nottingham off

Today's scheduled meeting at Nottingham became the 35th casualty of the jumps season when it was abandoned yesterday because of frost.

Royal Athlete shows old dash in landing substantial gamble

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Athlete, the top novice chaser three seasons ago, earned a 33-1 quote for the Cheltenham Gold Cup after landing a hefty new year's day gamble at Windsor yesterday.

The bookmakers' response to Mrs Pitman's ten-year-old winning the Tote Credit Handicap Hurdle might seem a little premature until you cast the mind back to April 1990.

At Aintree, Royal Athlete won the Mumm Club Novices' Chase, beating Arctic Call and Cahervillahow, before going to Ayr to defeat Carrick Hill Lad. No wonder the trainer has always considered him her best chaser and certainly superior to her subsequent Gold Cup winner, Garrison Savannah.

Unfortunately minor injuries kept Royal Athlete off the course for two whole seasons. Following a promising seasonal debut at Kempton over Christmas, he showed enough of his old zip to see off his hurdling rivals yesterday.

Given Mrs Pitman's much-publicised refusal to talk to racing journalists or broadcasters, her thoughts on Royal Athlete's chances of joining The Fellow at Cheltenham must remain a secret. However, her owners are hopeful. "We can say he has passed the first part of his MOT," Gary Johnston, the horse's owner and a garage proprietor, said.

Ironically, Mrs Pitman's success coincided with the end of a remarkable run for Bill and Shirley Robins, who removed their horses from her yard last year, when Baydon Star met his first defeat of the season in the Cheveley Park Stud New Year's Day Hurdle.

On ground softer than he likes, he was outbattled after the last by Muse, who was given an excellent ride by Tony Procter.

David Elsworth, trainer of Muse, was away shooting but *the 100-1 ante-post voucher* he possesses for his Champion Hurdle contender increased in value. Ladbrokes trimmed the winner's odds from 25-1 to 20-1.

Several of Kim Bailey's horses have been coughing, but Native Pride showed the stable could be about to return to form after outstaying Superior Finish in the Thompson Investments Novices' Chase to give Anthony Tory the hundredth winner of his career.

Kings Fountain, who led in the King George VI Chase until falling four out, is set to run in the Newton Chase at Haydock next Saturday.

Docklands Express, Bailey's other top chaser, has failed a dope test taken after his seasonal reappearance at Doncaster. Traces of the banned substance isoxsuprine were discovered.

The horse had been receiving the medication on the recommendation of vets for treatment to his feet. The treatment was stopped ten days before *his race* — in theory long enough for the substance to be flushed out of the horse's system.

[redacted]

MANDARIN
1.10 Lord Relic.
1.40 Noble Insight.
2.15 Jodami.
2.45 Special Account.
3.15 MUTARE (nap).
3.45 Scrutineer.

THUNDERER
1.10 Glen Lochan.
1.40 Easy Buck.
2.15 Jodami.
2.45 HURRICANE BLAKE (nap).
3.15 Mutare.
3.45 Scrutineer.

RICHARD EVANS: 2.15 COUNTRY MEMBER (nap). 2.45 Hurricane Blake. 3.45 Scrutineer.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.40 DERAB.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN HOME STRAIGHT) SIS

1.10 CHALLOW HURDLE BBC1
(Grade I: £15,875: 2m 5f) (7 runners)

101	132	CORRIN HILL 14 (S) (I Matthews) P Kelleway 6-11-7	A Maguire	●
102	0-31111	GLEN LOCHAN 26 (D,F,S) (Lord Chelsea) Miss H Knight 6-11-7	J Osborne	96
103	21/12-1	IRISH BAY 16 (F,G,S) (R Shaw) N Henderson 7-11-7	R Dunwoody	70
104	11	LORD RELIC 5 (D,S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 7-11-7	P Scudamore	88
105	211	MR MATT 21 (S) (Mrs E Boucher) D Grissell 5-11-7	Peter Hobbs	84
106	32-U11	YORKSHIRE GALE 22 (CD,S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 7-11-7	D Murphy	81
107	1F1152	GAELSTROM 28 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2	C Llewellyn	89

BETTING: 2-1 Lord Relic, 5-2 Glen Lochan, 7-2 Corrin Hill, 11-2 Irish Bay, 8-1 Gaelstrom, 10-1 others.

1992: LIFT AND LOAD 4-11-8 G McCourt (5-4 fav) R Hannon 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CORRIN HILL 7l 2nd of 5 to Baydon Star in a hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). GLEN LOCHAN beat GAELSTROM (3lb better off) 10l in the 4-runner grade II Crowngap Winter Novices' Hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, heavy). IRISH BAY beat Grand Hawk 10l in an 8-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). LORD RELIC beat Swab's Wreath 30l in a 7-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). MR MATT beat Dancing Paddy 12l in a 13-runner handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft). YORKSHIRE GALE beat Thumbs Up 3l in a 15-runner novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, soft).
Selection: GLEN LOCHAN

1.40 LADBROKE RACING WELFARE HANDICAP HURDLE BBC1
(£7,564: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

201	02-P2UR	LA CIENAGA 7 (D,F,G) (Duke of Atholl) G Balding 9-11-10	J Frost	89
202	430-510	EASY BUCK 28 (D,G,S) (The Burford Laundry Company Ltd) N Gaselee 6-11-8	C Maude	95
203	10-5011	DERAB 19 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs E Green) S Sherwood 7-11-6	J Osborne	●
204	F20-131	MARTHA'S SON 44 (D,F,G) (P Hartigan) T Forster 6-10-13	C Llewellyn	92
205	38410-F	KIBREET 21 (CD,F,G,S) (D Sheaster) D Elsworth 6-10-10	P Holley	92
206	121113	NIKITAS 21 (CD,F,G,S) (A Solomons) Miss A Whitfield 8-10-10	S McNeill	93
207	1120-F0	TOMAHAWK 74 (D,F,G,S) (Charles Sanders & Partners) P Murphy 6-10-10	D Murphy	87
208	033-312	DANCING PADDY 21 (D,S) K Cunningham-Brown 5-10-9	D O'Sullivan (5)	96
209	516-	STAR QUEST 136F (F) (D Morris) J Jenkins 6-10-8	R Dunwoody	81
210	11-6401	NOBLE INSIGHT 7 (B,D,F,G,S) (Insight Cartons Ltd) M Pipe 6-10-8	P Scudamore	96
211	0116-8P	SAFFAAH 15 (D,BF,G) (Mrs H Levy) W Muir 5-10-3	M Richards	92
212	351413	SAN LORENZO 15 (D,BF,G,S) (J Craig) K Bailey 5-10-2	M Perrett	93
213	0/341/0	VODKA FIZZ 22 (D,S) (D Richardson Horse Racing Ltd) J Gifford 8-10-1	E Murphy	—
214	5/4-4121	MIAMI SPLASH 17 (D,G,S) (G Weeks) P Hobbs 6-10-0	S Earle	94

Long handicap: Miami Splash 9-13.

BETTING: 5-1 Miami Splash, Noble Insight, 7-1 Martha's Son, 8-1 Nikitas, 10-1 Dancing Paddy, Easy Buck, Kibreet, 12-1 Derab, Saffaah, San Lorenzo, 16-1 Star Quest, 20-1 Tomahawk, Vodka Fizz, 25-1 La Cienaga.

1992: BARGE BOY 7-10-0 T Grantham (20-1) J Old 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

EASY BUCK beat Jopanini 3l in a 10-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot on penultimate start (2m 110yd, good to soft). DERAB beat Lucky Again 1¾l in a 15-runner novice chase at Ludlow (2m, good to soft). MARTHA'S SON beat Kilcash ¾l in an 8-runner handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good), with SAN LORENZO (5lb better off) 4l 4th. NIKITAS beat SAFFAAH (2lb better off) 2l in an 8-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance on penultimate start. DANCING PADDY 12l 2nd of 13 to Mr Matt in a handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft), with NOBLE INSIGHT (14lb worse off) tailed-off 9th and KIBREET in touch when falling 6th. NOBLE INSIGHT beat Hashar 2½l in an 11-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft). SAN LORENZO beat Eastern Magic a neck in a 9-runner handicap hurdle at Huntingdon on penultimate start (2m 110yd, soft). MIAMI SPLASH beat South Sands 6l in an 8-runner amateurs' handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, soft).
Selection: MARTHA'S SON

2.15 MANDARIN HANDICAP CHASE BBC1
(£7,304: 3m 2f 110yd) (15 runners)

301	1223-22	JODAMI 35 (BF,F,G,S) (J Yeadon) P Beaumont 8-12-0	M Dwyer	95
302	P111-44	TOPSHAM BAY 40 (CD,F,G,S) (M Marsh) D Barons 10-11-10	H Davies	88
303	33F-15U	GAMBLING ROYAL 14 (D,G,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 10-11-7	R Dunwoody	94
304	2-40145	KILDIMO 14 (D,F,G,S) (Lady Harris) Mrs S Smith 13-11-4	G Bradley	98
305	13111-P	KEEP TALKING 59 (C,F,G) (Queen Elizabeth) T Thomson Jones 8-10-13	S Smith Eccles	91
306	41/12-18	PARSONS GREEN 14 (B,G,B,S) (R Tooth) N Henderson 9-10-12	J Kavanagh	94
307	172-111	COUNTRY MEMBER 28 (C,G,S) (Mrs C Williams) A Turnell 8-10-11	L Harvey	●
308	UUP-135	ESHA NESS 22 (C,G,S) (P Bancroft) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-9	B de Haan	97
309	R63111	LOGAMIMO 28 (F,G,S) (J Hellens) J Hellens 7-10-9	A Larnach (5)	92
310	5P-22U0	BORACEVA 22 (D,F,G,S) (Duke of Atholl) G Balding 10-10-8	J Frost	87
311	3121/2-P	WINDY WAYS 22 (D,G) (Mrs P Sherwood) N Henderson 8-10-4	J Osborne	91
312	2512-32	SEA ISLAND 5 (B,C,BF,G,S) (R Warren) M Pipe 9-10-2	P Scudamore	91
313	42P-112	BONSAI BUD 18 (D,G,S) (P De Wilde) D Murray Smith 10-10-1	D Gallagher	97
314	53-0313	PAMBER PRIORY 16 (D,G,S) (D Makins) T Thomson Jones 10-10-0	G Rowe	92
315	41FF-P2	ASK FRANK 95 (D,S) (POWTC Ltd/ Speedy Scope) G Balding 7-10-0	A Maguire	89

Long handicap: Pamber Priory 9-8, Ask Frank 9-7.

BETTING: 4-1 Jodami, 5-1 Country Member, 7-1 Gambling Royal, 10-1 Windy Ways, 12-1 Sea Island, 14-1 Ask Frank, Bonsai Bud, Keep Talking, Logamimo, 16-1 Parsons Green, 20-1 Boraceva, 25-1 others.

1992: CHATAM 7-11-10 P Scudamore (1-2 fav) M Pipe 3 ran

FORM FOCUS

JODAMI ½l 2nd of 13 to Sibton Abbey in the grade III Hennessy Gold Cup over course and distance (soft), with GAMBLING ROYAL (5lb better off) 13½l 5th. KILDIMO 56l 5th of 8 to Captain Dibble in a handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, soft), with PARSONS GREEN (1lb better off) 30l 6th and GAMBLING ROYAL mid-division when unseated rider 4th. PARSONS GREEN beat For The Grain 8l in a 4-runner handicap chase here on penultimate start (2m 4f, soft). COUNTRY MEMBER beat Black Humour 4l in a 7-runner chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, soft). LOGAMIMO beat Nos Na Gaoithe 5l in a 7-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 5f, soft). SEA ISLAND 8l 2nd of 6 to Side Of Hill in a handicap chase at Chepstow (3m 3f 110yd, soft). BONSAI BUD 2l 2nd of 10 to Buddington in a handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good to soft). PAMBER PRIORY 1¾l 3rd of 10 to Bit Of A Clown in a handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, soft). ASK FRANK 6l 2nd of 6 to Glenbrook D'Or in a handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, soft), with ESHA NESS (5lb better off) 30l 3rd.
Selection: JODAMI

2.45 COME RACING ON MONDAY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,763: 3m 110yd) (22 runners)

401	54-P134	CARDINAL RED 28 (G) (Mrs F Walwyn) Mrs F Walwyn 6-11-4	B de Haan	88
402	404-21	CARRICK LANES 17 (S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 6-11-4	R Dunwoody	87
403	41-12	HURRICANE BLAKE 43 (G) (P Rylands) D Grissell 5-11-4	Peter Hobbs	97
404	023-122	LUSTY LIGHT 58 (BF,G) (B Burrough) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-4	M Pitman	88
405	06-0011	SPECIAL ACCOUNT 23 (D,S) (T Radlio) C Barwell 7-11-4	N Mann	●
406	05/0F4-6	BACK FROM THE DEAD 52 (J Upson) J Upson 7-11-0	R Supple	87
407	0/P-	BRAMBLE TWIG 305 (Lady Eliza Mays-Smith) Lady Eliza Mays-Smith 6-11-0	D Gallagher	—
408	0/144-4	BRAVE BUCCANEER 42 (A Haynes) D Murray Smith 6-11-0	J White	74
409	R1-22	COOL CLOWN 25 (BF,G) (Mrs P Browne) M Pipe 6-11-0	P Scudamore	97
410	00-4P00	GEN-TECH 19 (Mahair Group Plc) A James 6-11-0	R Bellamy	—
411	06-5	IDLING BY 16 (D Gandolfo) D Gandolfo 7-11-0	S McNeill	78
412	20/64	MISTRAL STORY 44 (J Hutchinson) J Gifford 8-11-0	E Murphy	78
413	2-54	MOVING OUT 15 (Mrs S Brasher) Miss H Knight 5-11-0	J Osborne	94
414		MR FLANAGAN (Mrs R Stanley) C Brooks 7-11-0	G Bradley	—
415	33200-	PROUD DRIFTER 311 (D Maclaine & I Scott) K Bailey 6-11-0	G Bazin (7)	—
416	0/P-0	SONNY JAMES 17 (G Maundrell) G Maundrell 9-11-0	Mr G Maundrell	—
417	0/0P6-FP	SPARTAN DREAM 35 (M Thurgood) M Usher 6-11-0	H Davies	—
418	0-F5P3	SWORDED KNIGHT 18 (Mrs S Lowndes) N Gaselee 7-11-0	C Llewellyn	82
419	0000	TEEGA SUKI 22 (Mrs J Young) Mrs J Young 6-11-0	G Upton	—
420		TOP MOUNT (J Hellens) J Hellens 6-11-0	A Larnach (5)	—
421	003-P61	SHANNON JULIETTE 72 (G) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 6-10-13	A Maguire	78
422	211/50-P	MARTOMICK 5 (S) (R Shaw) K Bailey 6-10-9	J Railton	86

BETTING: 9-4 Cool Clown, 11-4 Carrick Lanes, 9-2 Hurricane Blake, 11-2 Special Account, 8-1 Lusty Light, 8-1 Moving Out, 12-1 Brave Buccaneer, 16-1 others.

1992: TRIPLE WITCHING 5-11-4 M Pitman (5-4 fav) Mrs J Pitman 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

CARDINAL RED's best form was when beating *Emerald Ruler 1l in a 25-runner novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 5f 110yd, good)*. CARRICK LANES beat Motor Cloak 6l in a 17-runner novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 4f, soft). HURRICANE BLAKE 4l 2nd of 7 to Glen Lochan in a novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to soft). LUSTY LIGHT 4l 2nd of 14 to Old Brig in a novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good), with SPECIAL ACCOUNT over 29l 7th. COOL CLOWN 3l 2nd of 12 to Brackenfield in a novice hurdle at Market Rasen (3m, good to soft). SHANNON JULIETTE beat Coombesbury Lane 1l in a 16-runner novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good). SPECIAL ACCOUNT beat Alfo George 10l in a novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, soft).
Selection: CARRICK LANES (nap)

3.15 HUNGERFORD HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,756: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

501	14316-P	REDUNDANT PAL 14 (B,D,S) (Ladywood Racing Club) M Meade 10-12-0	J Railton	96
502	4/111F6-	SABIN DU LOIR 364 (D,F,G,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 14-11-10	P Scudamore	97
503	340-221	ANOTHER CORAL 21 (CD,F,G,S) (M Dooley) D Nicholson 10-11-7	R Dunwoody	96
504	26/112F-	MUTARE 287 (D,G,S) (M Buckley) N Henderson 8-11-1	J Osborne	91
505	11F44-F	MR ENTERTAINER 58 (CD,F,G,S) (M Boddington) N Gaselee 10-10-9	B Powell	96
506	8313-3P	GOLDEN FREEZE 40 (D,G,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-6	B de Haan	●
507	U/3114-6	OUR NOBBY 21 (CD,F,G,S) (B Basfan) D Elsworth 11-10-0	P Holley	93
508	14-4313	VERY VERY ORDINARY 22 (D,G,S) (Mrs W Cohen) J Upson 7-10-0	R Supple	88
509	P/50P-35	ASTRE RADIEUX 28 (D,G,S) (T Hemmings) Mrs S Smith 8-10-0	A Maguire	71

Long handicap: Very Very Ordinary 9-1, Astre Radieux 8-11.

BETTING: 9-4 Another Coral, 5-2 Mutare, 9-2 Very Very Ordinary, 11-2 Sabin Du Loir, 8-1 Mr Entertainer, 12-1 Redundant Pal, 14-1 others.

1992: KNIGHT OIL 8-10-9 J Osborne (100-30) O Sherwood 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

SABIN DU LOIR's most recent winning form was when beating Norton's Coin 4l in the 4-runner grade II Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon last season (2m 4f, good). ANOTHER CORAL beat Second Schedual 5l in the 10-runner grade III TriplePrint Gold Cup (2m 5f, soft) at Cheltenham. Previously, 7l 2nd of 18 to Tipping Tim in the grade III Mackeson Gold Cup (2m 4f 110yd) at Cheltenham, with GOLDEN FREEZE pulled up. MUTARE 3½l 2nd of 13 to Milansbosa in a novice chase at Chepstow (3m, good). VERY VERY ORDINARY 7¾l 3rd of 10 to Duntree in a handicap chase at Cheltenham last time out (3m 1f, soft).
Selection: ANOTHER CORAL

3.45 WICKHAM NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,652: 2m 110yd) (24 runners)

601		BARAHIN 73F (M Hickey) R O'Sullivan 11-0	D O'Sullivan (3)	—
602		BRIGGS LAD 75F (Mrs L Farmer) K Bailey 11-0	J Railton	—
603	0	BROUGHTON'S TANGO 22 (S Lansdown) M Heaton-Ellis 11-0	B Powell	—
604		CORINTHIAN GOD 91F (T Riley-Smith) D Wilson 11-0	D Bridgwater	—
605	0	GENERAL DIXIE 21 (D Gallop) R Hannon 11-0	M Perrett	—
606	02	GREAT MAX 36 (R Green) M Jarvis 11-0	D Murphy	85
607	6	GROG 119 (Sussexdown Racing) S Sherwood 11-0	G Upton	—
608	U3	HOLY WANDERER 22 (Mrs J Leak) D Arbuthnot 11-0	H Davies	●
609	P	IMA RED NECK 18 (E Houghton) J Moore 11-0	W McFarland	—
610		JUDGE AND JURY 81F (R Anderson) O Sherwood 11-0	J Osborne	—
611	U4	LER CRU 32 (B Green) J Ffitch-Heyes 11-0	R Beggan	—
612	2U9	MAESTROSO 21 (Mrs T Dunbar) R Johnson Houghton 11-0	M Dwyer	88
613		MANULIFE 116F (Mrs H Bennett) R Brotherton 11-0	R Bellamy	—
614	2444	ROC COLOR 59 (BF) (Mrs S McCarthy) C Brooks 11-0	G Bradley	84
615		SCRUTINEER 73F (Sheikh Mohammed) D Nicholson 11-0	R Dunwoody	—
616		SHARPTINO 17F (Sir Eric Parker) R Akehurst 11-0	A Maguire	—
617	3	THINKING TWICE 18 (Million In Mind Partnership) N Henderson 11-0	J Kavanagh	68
618	PPF	TRY LEGUARD 22 (W Moore) J Moore 11-0	A Charlton	—
619		WRETS 133F (Midland Markets Ltd) Mrs P Joynes 11-0	C Llewellyn	—
620		DASHING MARCH (M Saunders) M Saunders 10-9	S Mackey	—
621		FRUITFUL AFFAIR 92F (Mrs J Ellis) T Thomson Jones 10-9	S Smith Eccles	—
622		IN THE GAME 106F (A Solomons) Miss A Whitfield 10-9	S McNeill	—
623		UPTON LASS (L Kimber) A Turnell 10-9	L Harvey	—
624	U	WHEELER'S WONDER 36 (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 10-9	Mr J L Llewellyn (7)	—

BETTING: 10-11 Scrutineer, 11-2 Holy Wanderer, 13-2 Thinking Twice, 8-1 Roc Color, 10-1 Great Max, 12-1 Judge And Jury, 14-1 General Dixie, Grog, 16-1 Sharptino, 20-1 others.

1992: DUHARRA 10-7 A Procter (10-1) D Elsworth 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

GREAT MAX 1l 2nd of 13 to Gaveto in a novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 110yd, good). HOLY WANDERER just over 6l 3rd of 15 to Beauchamp Grace in a novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft), with BROUGHTON'S TANGO a distant 8th and TRY LEGUARD a faller at the first. ROC COLOR 20l 4th of 8 to My Senor in a novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). THINKING TWICE 6l 3rd of 15 to Second Call in a novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft), with IMA RED NECK pulled up.
Selection: HOLY WANDERER

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
T Thomson Jones	6	19	31.6	R Dunwoody	46	185	24.9
M Pipe	23	77	29.9	P Scudamore	29	121	24.0
O Sherwood	22	92	23.9	B Supple	4	17	23.5
R Hannon	3	13	23.1	J Osborne	25	126	19.8
D Barons	9	40	22.5	P Holley	10	51	19.6
C Brooks	14	66	21.2	M Perrett	14	73	19.2

[redacted]

MANDARIN
12.15 Majed.
12.45 Ringland.
1.15 Candy Tuff.
1.50 Holdenby.
2.25 Castle King.
2.55 Montpelier Lad.
3.25 Thistle Monarch.

THUNDERER
12.15 Majed.
12.45 Ringland.
1.15 Candy Tuff.
1.50 Persuasive.
2.25 Castle King.
2.55 Montpelier Lad.
3.25 Carson City.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.15 DALRYMPLE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £1,966: 2m) (13 runners)

1	55-11	MAJED 24 (CD,S) (Laurel (Leisure) Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 5-12-0	Mr M Buckley (7)	●
2	331	J P MORGAN 21 (V,D,S) (R Miquel) M Naughton 5-11-11	A Dobbin (5)	80
3	0	ARAGON AYR 18 (Lt-Col W Monteith) P Monteith 5-11-5	M Moloney	—
4	U	CAITHNESS CLOUD 50 (R Anderson Green) C Parker 5-11-5	B Storey	—
5	64/0-P00	RAPID MOVER 21 (M Gleig) D Nolan 6-11-5	J J Quinn	64
6		STRONG MEASURE (Leading Star Racing) P Cheesbrough 5-11-5	C Grant	—
7	2	TUSKY 21 (The Rocking Horse Syndicate) G Moore 5-11-5	N Bentley (3)	77
8	3332P2	CELTIC SONG 16 (Mrs R Jeffreys) W Reed 6-11-0	T Reed	87
9	0-0	CHICKABIDDY 85 (Group Captain J Frideaux) K Oliver 5-11-0	G Thomson (7)	—
10	5P0-003	DANCING STREET 21 (I Anderson) T Craig 5-11-0	C Hawkins	75
11	0-	FINE OAK 348 (D Robertson) D Robertson 6-11-0	Mr D Robertson	—
12	4	BADASTAN 46 (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 4-10-7	G McCourt	94
13	SP	KATIESIMP 14 (J Hurst) J Hurst 4-10-2	P Williams (7)	—

BETTING: 4-6 Majed, 9-2 Badastan, 7-1 J P Morgan, 8-1 Tusky, 14-1 Dancing Street, Celtic Song, 16-1 Strong Measure, 20-1 others.

1992: PREOBLAKENSKY 5-12-0 N Doughty (11-10 fav) G Richards 14 ran

12.45 DALRYMPLE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £1,955: 2m) (13 runners)

1	80-10	RINGLAND 21 (D,G) (R Moffat) D Moffatt 5-11-11	D J Moffatt (5)	98
2	04550-P	BASSO PROFUNDO 43 (Mrs L Joicey) W Reed 6-11-5	T Reed	83
3	06/2-3P	CAITHNESS PRINCE 37 (R Anderson Green) C Parker 7-11-5	Mr D Parker (7)	●
4	0/4-4	DO A RUNNER 22 (Mrs J Love) J Love 6-11-5	Mr S Love	—
5	08/446	GOLDEN ISLE 22 (BF) (J Hogg) J Charlton 9-11-5	B Storey	90
6	00055-2	TIMANFAYA 21 (Mrs D Cotham) Mrs D Cotham 6-11-5	A Orkney	79
7	0062P4-	TRICYCLING 292 (J Doyle) P Monteith 5-11-5	P Williams (7)	91
8	23P-84	MOSSIE GOLD 15 (Mrs H Greenshields) M Naughton 6-11-0	A Dobbin (5)	87
9	4	NINFA 54 (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 5-11-0	M Moloney	—
10	015	ELGIN 28 (CD,S) (Mrs M O'Donnell) K Oliver 4-10-13	G Thomson (7)	84
11	64	ABELONI 5 (W Williams) W Williams 4-10-7	D Bentley (5)	85
12		KHALLOOF 238F (Albury Racing Ltd) Denys Smith 4-10-7	C Grant	—
13		WINSOME GRAIN (Lightbody of Hamilton Ltd) Miss L Perratt 4-10-2	L O'Hara	—

BETTING: 6-4 Ringland, 9-2 Ninfa, 6-1 Golden Isle, 7-1 Abeloni, 8-1 Timanfaya, 10-1 Khalloof, 10-1 Mossie Gold, 14-1 Elgin, 16-1 others.

1992: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

1.15 CULROY NOVICES CHASE
(£2,607: 3m 1f) (14 runners)

1	P4-U215	MISTER TUFTIE 79 (CD,F,G) (Major I Straker) G Richards 8-11-11	G McCourt	90
2	6-06401	PIPER O'DRUMMOND 16 (G) (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-11	A Merrigan	89
3	25F6-41	GALA WATER 22 (D,S) (Mrs T Dun) T Dun 7-11-5	T Reed	96
4	2-31435	SHERMAGO 21 (F,G) (Mrs J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 11-11-6	J Callaghan	75
5	54111-2	CANDY TUFF 17 (F,G,S) (G Sweenson) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-5	L Wyer	●
6	F-RP3P0	IRON PRINCE 18 (Mrs J Stone) K Oliver 7-11-5	C Grant	—
7	02U-526	ISLAND GALE 58 (D McCune) D McCune 8-11-5	P Waggott (7)	84
8	6P-F058	KINNESTON 16 (Mrs C Alexander) M Alexander 9-11-5	S Turner	78
9	6U4-FP0	MARLEFIELD 18 (V) (W Wilson) K Oliver 11-11-5	M Moloney	—
10	4641-F2	SPARTAN RANGER 37 (G) (Mrs J Milligan) M Hammond 8-11-5	A Orkney	94
11	P63F0-3	TRUELY ROYAL 32 (J Pearson) J Charlton 9-11-5	B Storey	98
12	FPF842	CELTIC WATERS 21 (Mrs D Thomson) Mrs D Thomson 8-11-0	C Dennis (3)	91
13	50/34F	SHIONA ANNE 25 (A Paton) R Goldie 9-11-0	A Larnach (5)	90
14	535/280	TRAUMATIC LAURA 14 (Miss S Blair) Mrs S Taylor 8-11-0	G Harker	83

BETTING: 6-4 Candy Tuff, 3-1 Spartan Ranger, 5-1 Mister Tuftie, 7-1 Piper O'Drummond, 8-1 Gala Water, 10-1 Shermago, 12-1 Celtic Waters, 16-1 others.

1992: KING'S CURATE 8-11-5 S Earle (1-3 fav) S Mellor 12 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs G Reveley	17	46	37.0	D Wilkinson	3	8	37.5
G Richards	43	219	19.6	N Bentley	3	9	33.3
G Moore	22	113	19.5	G McCourt	21	81	25.9
M Hammond	6	35	17.1	N Doughty	24	112	21.4
N Tinkler	7	45	15.6	A Dobbin	3	15	20.0
Mrs S Bradburne	10	68	14.7	L Wyer	14	83	16.9

1.50 AYR NEW YEAR HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,801: 2m) (15 runners)

1	3-21135	PERSUASIVE 21 (CD,G,S) (W McHarg) Miss L Perratt 8-11-10	Mr R Hale (7)	98
2	111612	ABLE PLAYER 5 (D,F,G,S) (Miss K Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-10	J Burke (7)	97
3	522135-	PORTAVOGIE 294 (G,S) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 9-11-3	B Storey	—
4	1111-56	DIZZY 16 (CD,G,S) (Lt-Col W Monteith) P Monteith 5-11-3	M Moloney	95
5	42-1121	FRICKLEY 21 (CD,G,S) (R Ogden) G Richards 7-11-3	N Doughty	93
6	0U3-352	HOLDENBY 21 (D,F,G,S) (D Bowker) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-3	Mr M Buckley (7)	●
7	11-5112	STRONG VIEWS 31 (D,F,G,S) (P Piller) P Cheesbrough 6-10-12	Mr A Thornton (5)	93
8	1122-F1	TAPATCH 21 (D,F,G) (Miss V Foster) G Moore 5-10-9	N Bentley (3)	95
9	22/2460-	SOUTER'S HILL 322 (D,G) (I Anderson) T Craig 6-10-8	C Hawkins	87
10	2/1-0PF3	INVERTIEL 21 (CD,F) (D St. Clair) P Monteith 9-10-0	A Dobbin (7)	94
11	544364	FAMILY LINE 16 (D,G,S) (J Richard) Miss L Perratt 5-10-0	L O'Hara	98
12	6/0016-	LOCHEART LADY 222 (G) (W Lofthouse) A Stringer 6-10-0	L O'Hara	80
13	00P04-0	EQUATOR 16 (D,S) (J Stocklock) J Haldane 10-10-0	N Leech (7)	88
14	16000-0	RAGE 36 (B,D,F) (Mrs J McFadyen-Murray) D Nolan 6-10-0	J J Quinn	70
15	5/P3/64	SAINTLY PATH 24 (S) (J Huddleston) W Reed 10-10-0	T Reed	—

Long handicap: Invertiel 9-11, Family Line 9-10, Locheart Lady 9-5, Equator 8-10, Rage 8-5, Saintly Path 8-5.

BETTING: 3-1 Holdenby, 4-1 Frickley, 6-1 Persuasive, 7-1 Able Player, Strong Views, 10-1 Tapatch, Dizzy, 12-1 Portavogie, 14-1 Souter's Hill, Family Line, 16-1 others.

1992: SWEET CITY 7-9-12 D Byrne (12-1) G Richards 6 ran

2.25 McALPINE CHALLENGE CUP
(Handicap chase: £3,208: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1	16-3131	CORNET 49 (V,CD,F,G,S) (Duke of Sutherland) Denys Smith 7-12-0	P Waggott (7)	92
2	11P134-	DEEP COLONIST 257 (C,D,G,S) (Adcock Racing) T Tate 11-11-10	G McCourt	94
3	113-F2F	FLIGHT HILL 22 (CD,G,S) (Mrs R Stanley) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-4	L Wyer	93
4	512253	INTERIM LIB 23 (CD,F,G,S) (R Henderson) Mrs S Bradburne 10-11-1	Mr J Bradburne	94
5	112/1-PP	GENERAL PERSHING 17 (BF,F,G,S) (J Potter) G Richards 7-11-0	N Doughty	89
6	103-FP3	KAMBALDA RAMBLER 14 (D,S) (Mrs J G Dudgeon) C Parker 9-10-8	Mr D Parker (7)	85
7	1113-21	CASTLE KING 22 (D,F,G) (P Piller) P Cheesbrough 6-10-6	C Grant	95
8	5-31166	BLACK SPUR 28 (CD,F,G,S) (J Gibson) J Charlton 11-10-1	B Storey	●
9	1/P/6F1	TRAPRAIN LAW 25 (C,G,S) (J Stephenson) W Reed 10-10-0	T Reed	88
10	43/60-P5	ADEN APOLLO 21 (CD,G,S) (J Sim) T Craig 12-10-0	F Perratt (7)	—

Long handicap: Traprain Law 9-10, Aden Apollo 9-4.

BETTING: 11-4 Castle King, 4-1 Black Spur, 5-1 Cornet, 7-1 Deep Colonist, Interim Lib, 10-1 General Pershing, Flight Hill, 12-1 Kambalda Rambler, 20-1 others.

1992: INTERIM LIB 9-9-13 P Williams (3-1) Mrs S Bradburne 6 ran

2.55 HURLFORD NOVICES CHASE
(£2,493: 2m) (12 runners)

1	1/F03F1	AWKAS 15 (D,G,S) (C MacMillan) G Moore 8-11-9	J Callaghan	89
2	80-6412	JIMMY MAC JIMMY 15 (D,S) (J Craig) Miss L Perratt 6-11-9	L O'Hara	91
3	50F-F25	BOARDING SCHOOL 42 (BF,S) (R Anderson Green) C Parker 6 11-3	B Storey	96
4	34-3PFF	DANTE'S INFERNO 35 (S) (Lady Harris) Mrs S Bradburne 7-11-3	P Williams (7)	—
5	05221/3	HUTNER 15 (G) (M K Dodd) M Dods 8-11-3	A Merrigan	78
6	316-552	KANNDABIL 42 (B,G,S) (Neil McAndrews) N Tinkler 6-11-3	G McCourt	●
7	14-0336	MILS MIJ 5 (F,G,S) (Joe Hurst) J Hurst 8-11-3	T Reed	—
8	1/20-050	MONTPELIER LAD 21 (F,G,S) (Stanley Little) G Richards 6-11-3	N Doughty	—
9	0PP-344	MURFIELD 51 (J M Oliver) K Oliver 8-11-3	A Orkney	78
10	10/0326	SPONSOR LIGHT 14 (S) (J Gledson) J Gledson 9-11-3	Mr R Hale (7)	89
11	6250/U5	STAGSHAW BELLE 16 (Mrs J Staker) Mrs S Bradburne 9-10-12	Mr J Bradburne	—
12	333-210	NORTINO 18 (G) (J Charlton) J Charlton 5-10-7	Mr A Thornton (5)	—

BETTING: 5-2 Montpelier Lad, 7-2 Kanndabil, 5-1 Boarding School, 6-1 Jimmy Mac Jimmy, 8-1 Awkas, 10-1 Hutner, 12-1 Dante's Inferno, Mils Mij, 14-1 Nortino, 20-1 others.

1992: ON THE HOOCH 7-10-12 Mr J Bradburne (16-1) Mrs S Bradburne 9 ran

3.25 COYLTON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,955: 2m 6f) (11 runners)

1		BENNAN MARCH (B O'Kane) P Monteith 6-12-7	P Williams (7)	—
2	52-0112	THISTLE MONARCH 14 (BF,S) (J Gordon) G Richards 8-12-0	N Doughty	●
3	20-532	CARSON CITY 21 (Mrs M Gray) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-10	L Wyer	94
4	00-2	THOMAS THE TANK 22 (R Goldie) R Goldie 9-10-8	Mr S Love	90
5	0-00221	HERE COMES TIBBY 22 (S) (Mrs E Hislop) W Reed 6-10-8	T Reed	89
6	FFP260	RED SCORPION 26 (W Williams) W Williams 9-10-1	D Wilkinson	91
7	B00-64	MASTER MISCHIEF 22 (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 6-10-0	K Johnson	94
8	4-40U	BEE DEE BOY 16 (Blinds Direct Ltd) Miss L Perratt 5-10-0	L O'Hara	93
9	P/000	CELTIC BUNNIE 25 (Mrs J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 8-10-0	B Storey	—
10	80-P0	NAVAL RAID 40 (Mrs J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-10-0	A Dobbin (3)	74
11	PPP0	ROAD TO THE WEIR 16 (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 6-10-0	J Burke (7)	—

Long handicap: Master Mischief 9-13, Bee Dee Boy 9-11, Celtic Bunnie 9-4, Naval Raid 9-3, Road To The Weir 9-0.

BETTING: 7-4 Thistle Monarch, 11-4 Carson City, 5-1 Here Comes Tibby, 6-1 Thomas The Tank, 8-1 Master Mischief, 12-1 Red Scorpion, 14-1 Bee Dee Boy, 16-1 others.

1992: CANDY TUFF 6-11-0 Mr M Buckley (7-4 fav) Mrs G Reveley 19 ran

Royal Gait had haemorrhage

ROYAL Gait, the champion hurdler, suffered a massive internal haemorrhage shortly before he collapsed and died in Ireland on Wednesday.

A post mortem yesterday at *the Irish Equine Centre at* Johnstown, co. Kildare, established that the nine-year-old had died of heart failure. "He had shown no problems before," Michael Osborne, the manager of *Shaikh Mohammed's Kildangan Stud, said.*

[redacted]

MANDARIN
12.50 Knobbleeneeze. 1.20 First Fling. 1.50 Khrisma. 2.20 *Mu-Arrik.* 2.50 Rhythmic Dancer. 3.20 Excess Baggage.

THUNDERER
12.50 Splash Of Salt. 1.20 Breakdancer. 1.50 Khrisma. 2.20 Ewald. 2.50 Indian Endeavour. 3.20 Heniu.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.50 SANTANDER HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,325: 5f) (7 runners)

1	000-	HOME AFFAIR 11 K Cunningham-Brown 9-7	G Bardwell	5
2	010-	TEE-EMM 23 (C) P Howling 9-5	L Carter (7)	3
3	231-	SPLASH OF SALT 31 T Naughton 9-2	J Quinn	2
4	040-	WEALTHYWOO 11 (B,D,S) H Collingridge 9-1	C Dwyer	4
5	334-	KNOBBLEENEEZE 11 (V,C) M Channon 9-1	T Quinn	1
6	363-	THE INSTITUTE BOY 35 (B) K Burke 8-12	S Webster	7
7	422-	COMET WHIRLPOOL 18 (B) Pat Mitchell 8-11	W Woods	6

3-1 Comet Whirlpool, 4-1 Splash Of Salt, 9-2 The Institute Boy, 5-1 Knobbleeneeze, 6-1 Tee-Emm, 10-1 Home Affair, Wealthywoo.

1.20 VIGO CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,477: 1m 4f) (10)

1	405-	NATIVE CHIEFTAN 11 (G) R Hannon 4-8-12	Mark Denaro (7)	8
2	05-	LAJADHAL 17 J Bennett 4-8-8	W Ryan	5
3	310-	BREAKDANCER 24 (CD,F) W Muir 4-8-6	T Quinn	4
4	000-	BASSIO 17 (V,F,G) C Allen 4-8-4	G Forster (7)	1
5	/4-	LYPH 14 P Hedger 7-8-3	S Dawson	10
6	800-	ANNE'S BANK 51J (G) A Moore 5-8-2	Candy Morris	9
7	548-	FIRST FLING 14 (V,BF) J Scargill 4-8-0	P McCabe (7)	2
8	002-	SIMON ELLIS 14 D Laing 4-7-12	G Bardwell	3
9	000-	ROCKY BAY 30 (G) D Haydn Jones 4-7-11	S McCarthy (7)	7
10	188-	PERSIAN FLEECE 14 (S) A Bailey 4-7-7	D Wright (7)	6

2-1 First Fling, 5-2 Persian Fleece, 9-2 Breakdancer, 6-1 Simon Ellis, 8-1 Native Chieftan, 12-1 Bassio, 14-1 others.

1.50 SANTIAGO HANDICAP
(£3,201: 1m 2f) (8)

1	000-	RAPPORTEUR 17 (CD,F,G) C C Elsey 7-10-0	J Williams	7
2	203-	BELMOREDEAN 11 (CD,F,G) R O'Sullivan 8-9-10	D Biggs	1
3	212-	AWESOME POWER 24 (CD,BF,S) J Hills 7-9-10	M Hills	8
4	312-	KHRISMA 17 (CD,BF) Mrs J Cecil 4-9-5	W Ryan	5
5	/60-	MEL'S ROSE 49J (F,G) J Scargill 8-9-1	P McCabe (7)	6
6	121-	LOOKINGFORARAINBOW 18 (CD,F,G) Bob Jones 5-9-0	N Day	4
7	643-	MENTALASANYTHIN 14 (S) A Bailey 4-8-6	G Bardwell	3
8	000-	MAY SQUARE 11 (F) Mrs A Knight 5-7-11	J Quinn	2

3-1 Khrisma, 7-2 Awesome Power, 5-1 Mentalasanything, 6-1 Belmoredean, Lookingforarainbow, 8-1 Rapporteur, Mel's Rose, 10-1 May Square.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 2.20 Tricky Vera.

2.20 ALPINE DOUBLE GLAZING MAIDEN GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES
(£2,174: 6f) (7)

1	509-	ANOTHER VINTAGE 18J P Cundell 4-9-0	W Ryan	3
2	3/0-	EWALD 18 M Johnston 5-9-0	T Quinn	7
3	330/	SYMCRAK FORTUNE 21J P Cundell 5-9-0	W Woods	2
4	300-	MU-ARRIK 30 J Wainwright 5-9-0	M Hills	6
5	000-	NIGALS FRIEND 11 D Haydn Jones 4-9-0	J Williams	4
6	400-	SIMMOOR 30 (B) R Hannon 4-9-0	A McGlone	5
7	0/0-	TRICKY VERA 30 (B) T Naughton 4-8-9	J Quinn	1

9-4 Nigal's Friend, 11-4 Mu-Arrik, 7-2 Simmoor, 5-1 Another Vintage, 7-1 Ewald, 10-1 others.

2.50 LIMA HANDICAP
(£2,820: 6f) (8)

1	240-	RUNNING GLIMPSE 112 (D,F,G) Miss B Sanders 5-10-0	A Martinez (7)	6
2	601-	RHYTHMIC DANCER 2 (F) J Spearing 5-10-0 (7ex)	J Williams	5
3	113-	INDIAN ENDEAVOUR 14 (C,BF,G) R Guest 4-9-13	M Hills	2
4	304-	LOVE LEGEND 14 (B,CD,F,G) D Arbuthnot 8-9-11	T Quinn	3
5	100-	HARDLINER 116 (CD,F) C Wall 4-9-10	W Ryan	7
6	003-	TOSHIBA COMET 5 (B,CD,F,G,S) Pat Mitchell 6-8-7	D Biggs	8
7	203-	QUATRE FEMME 31 (D,F) M Johnston 6-8-6	R P Elliott	4
8	003-	GEMINI BAY 11 (B,D,F,G) R Voorspuy 4-7-8	G Bardwell	1

5-2 Rhythmic Dancer, 9-2 Love Legend, Indian Endeavour, 6-1 Running Glimpse, 7-1 Toshiba Comet, 8-1 Quatre Femme, 10-1 Hardliner, 20-1 Gemini Bay.

3.20 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP
(£3,080: 1m) (12)

1	052-	INVOCATION 14 (C) A Moore 6-10-0	B Russell (7)	12
2	201-	MASRUR 185 (G) D Marks 4-8-10	S Dawson	11
3	061-	DIGGER DOYLE 211 C Allen 4-8-7	G Forster (7)	1
4	116-	ALBERT THE BOLD 24 (F,G) Mrs L Piggott 4-9-5	J Williams	5
5	312-	ARSONAL 16 (C,D,BF,F,G) R Hannon 6-9-5	A McGlone	2
6	031-	HENIU 30 (V,C) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-1	M Hills	4
7	056-	SARUM 17 (CD,F) C Wildman 7-9-0	Dale Gibson	3
8	151-	EXCESS BAGGAGE 11 (CD) N Callaghan 3-8-10	W Ryan	6
9	031-	MASTER HYDE 11 (C) P Mitchell 4-8-10	D Biggs	7
10	400-	EMAURA 95 (D,F) K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-6	G Bardwell	9
11	100-	BILL MOON 18 (CD,F,G) P Felgate 7-8-7	Kim McDonnell (7)	10
12	120-	TADORA 14 (CD,G) C Benstead 4-8-7	T Quinn	8

4-1 Master Hyde, 9-2 Heniu, 5-1 Arsonal, 6-1 Invocation, 7-1 Albert The Bold, 8-1 Excess Baggage, 10-1 Digger Doyle, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs J Cecil, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%; Lord Huntingdon, 6 from 22, 27.3%; R Guest, 6 from 24, 25.0%; N Callaghan, 11 from 54, 20.4%; R O'Sullivan, 17 from 95, 17.9%; M Johnston, 10 from 57, 17.5%.

JOCKEYS: T Quinn, 45 winners from 237 rides, 19.0%; N Day, 15 from 80, 18.8%; M Hills, 21 from 126, 16.7%; R P Elliott, 6 from 37, 16.2%; W Ryan, 16 from 112, 14.3%; D Biggs, 25 from 190, 13.2%.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Newbury, Wolverhampton, Southwell (AW).
TUESDAY: Lingfield, Newton Abbot.
WEDNESDAY: Lingfield, Sedgefield, Southwell (AW).
THURSDAY: Worcester, Market Rasen, Lingfield (AW).
FRIDAY: Towcester, Edinburgh, Southwell (AW).
SATURDAY: Sandown, Haydock, Warwick, Lingfield (AW).
(Flat meetings in bold)

Balding bids for top post

TOBY Balding, who trains at Whitcombe Manor in Dorset, is among 120 applicants for the post of chief executive of the new British Horseracing Board (BHB), which replaces the Jockey Club in April.

Applications closed on Thursday, and Christopher Haines, chief executive of the Jockey Club, is likely to be on the short-list.

Balding is chairman of the National Hunt trainers' committee and his training achievements include winning the Grand National and Champion Hurdle twice and a Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Balding said that although he was an admirer of Haines, he felt strongly that he should not be the chief executive.

He said: "I think it would be a serious mistake if the old Jockey Club dominated the new BHB."

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[redacted]

Windsor

Going: good

12.40 (2m ch) 1, SAILORS LUCK (D Murphy, 10-1); 2, Golden Fare (A Maguire, 6-1); 3, Copper Mine (J Osborne, 4-1 fav); 4, Drumstick (A Tory, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Peace Officer (f), Didleston (f), 10 Star Of Italy (bd), 12 Beladiya, 14 Osaura (f), 16 Cobb Bay, 20 Greenwine (5th), Perry Prince, 25 Bumptious Boy (pu), 33 Tim Soldier (6th), Anvials, 50 Music Box (f), 66 Hot Lass. 17 ran. NR: Frisco City. 12l, 5l, 7l, nk, 2l. P Murphy at Bristol. Tote: £21.10; £3.20, £1.40, £1.60, £5.80. DF: £28.90. CSF: £59.07. Tricast: £288.64.

1.10 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, ROYAL ATHLETE (M Pitman, 3-1 fav); 2, Glebelands Girl (L Dace, 33-1); 3, Vital Witness (A S Smith, 10-1); 4, Duncan Idaho (C Maude, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Bellezza, 12 Grouseman, The Pappersol, 14 Tanfirion Bay (pu), My Key Silca, 20 Jacidh (6th), Rubins Boy, Smartie Lee, Suren, Super Ritchart, Sovereign Sound, 25 Steeple Jack (5th), Andrelot, Lesbet, Black Sapphire, Western Dancer, 33 Child Of The Mist, 66 Lashes (pu), Meningi, 100 Louis Fermat, Talus. 25 ran. NR: Chesmerelia. 1¾l, 2½l, 3l, 12l, 8l. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £4.00; £1.60, £4.10, £2.30, £4.80. DF: £66.40. Trio: £268.80. CSF: £101.21. Tricast: £894.25.

1.40 (3m ch) 1, NATIVE PRIDE (A Tory, 3-1); 2, Superior Finish (M Pitman, 100-30 fav); 3, Cool And Easy (D Murphy, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Cowden Cottage (pu), 6 Pasty Bridge (4th), 9 Bowl Of Oats, 14 Fenton Bridge (pu), Kortball (pu), 20 Don Keydrop, 33 Can't Disclose (pu), Jack Be Brief (pu), Senegalais (f), Victory Gate (pu), Mr Tittle Tattle (6th), 50 Commanchero (pu), Another Canford (5th). 16 ran. NR: Camelot Knight, Impeccable Timing. 7l, 25l, 15l, 2l, 10l. K Bailey. Tote: £3.10; £2.30, £1.80, £2.30. DF: £10.10. CSF: £21.24.

2.10 (2m hdle) 1, MUSE (A Procter, 13-2); 2, Baydon Star (R Dunwoody, Evens fav); 3, Lift And Load (D Murphy, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Jungle Knife (6th), 7 Duke Of Monmouth (4th), 66 Pontynyswen (5th), Cheerful Times, Tiger Claw, 150 Present Times. 9 ran. NR: Mezcocco. 1l, nk, 20l, 8l, 7l. D Elsworth at Whitsbury. Tote: £7.70; £1.90, £1.30, £1.20. DF: £4.80. CSF: £12.65. Tricast: £31.91.

2.40 (3m 5f ch) 1, AVONBURN (M Richards, 4-1 fav); 2, Gladtogetit (P Holley, 10-1); 3, Kind's Smart (A S Smith, 11-1); 4, The Master Gunner (A Tory, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Glen Cherry, 8 Kitsinger, 9 Royal Saxon (pu), 10 Jimster (6th), 12 Winabuck (f), Moze Tidy (ur), 14 Our Fellow, 16 Cos (f), Brave Defender (5th), 20 Popeswood, 25 Kissane, On Your Way (pu), 50 Whistle Blower (pu), Dandy Minstrel, 100 Catora (pu). 19 ran. NR: Pacific Gem. 1l, 3l, 3l, 5l, 1½l. P Hedger at Chichester. Tote: £7.10; £2.10, £4.20, £2.70, £5.70. DF: £111.30. CSF: £46.65. Tricast: £405.87.

3.10 (2m hdle) 1, FATHER RALPH (A Maguire, 10-1); 2, Welsh Singer (M Richards, 6-1); 3, Foolish Soprano (J Kavanagh, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 4 fav Pilgrims Way, 9-2 Easthorpe (pu), 6 Celtic Spark (pu), Rudolf (pu), 10 River Red (5th), Far Run (6th), 14 Sylvia Beach (4th), Ananuka, 16 Rogerson (pu), 20 Rising Member (pu), 33 Spin (pu), Baroness Bella (pu), Nearly A Queen (pu), Mr Invader, George Lane, Gerrans Bay, 50 Glossy (pu), 66 Class Mate. 21 ran. NR: Go Universal. 1l, 2½l, 3l, 6l, 7l. D Gandolfo at Wantage. Tote: £14.00; £3.90, £2.50, £8.60. DF: £51.10. CSF: £79.82.

3.40 (2m hdle) the last was race abandoned due to fog.

Placepot: £145.80.

Exeter

Going: soft

1.05 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Brora Rose (B de Haan, 33-1); 2, Master Jolson (5-1 jt-fav); 3, Northern Saddler (33-1); 4, Freds Melody (11-1). Old Brig 5-1 jt-fav. 18 ran. 1l, 2l. Mrs F Walwyn. Tote: £11.90; £2.60, £1.60, £6.20, £3.30. DF: £109.60. CSF: £177.78. Tricast: £5,000.85.

1.35 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Robingo (P Scudamore, 1-4 fav); 2, Court Of Kings (10-1); 3, Ather (8-1). 13 ran. 15l, 3l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £2.30, £1.90. DF: £4.40. CSF: £4.28.

2.05 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Light Veneer (M Lynch, 7-4); 2, Tangled String (66-1); 3, Buckingham Gate (6-1). Midnight Caller Evens fav. 10 ran. NR: Daring Valley, Cowden Cottage, Superior Finish. 4l, 25l. Mrs M Jones. Tote: £2.70; £1.40, £3.90, £1.10. DF: £54.00. CSF: £70.80.

2.35 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Milly Black (L Harvey, 14-1); 2, Tudor Da Samba (4-7 fav); 3, Miss Marigold (5-1). 12 ran. Nk, 12l. J Akehurst. Tote: £18.90; £3.90, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £7.90. CSF: £21.07.

3.05 (2m 2f hdle) 1, High Baron (M Hourigan, 7-2; Thunderer's nap); 2, South Sands (14-1); 3, The Black Monk (6-4 fav); 4, Shadeux (14-1). 16 ran. Nk, 10l. R Alner. Tote: £5.00; £1.50, £3.80, £1.40, £2.40. DF: £57.00. CSF: £54.36. Tricast: £100.57.

3.35 (2m 2f ch) 1, Obie's Train (P Scudamore, 7-4 fav); 2, Springholm (9-4); 3, General Merchant (5-1). 11 ran. NR: Kameo Style. 3l, 4l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £1.60, £1.40. DF: £4.10. CSF: £5.84.

4.05 (2m 2f flat) 1, Poulstone (Mr T Jenks, 4-5 fav); 2, Mr Woodlark (33-1); 3, Oats N Barley (66-1). 18 ran. 2l, 20l. J Edwards. Tote: £1.90; £1.70, £3.60, £12.30. DF: £57.90. CSF: £29.23. After stewards' enquiry, result stood. Placepot: £13.80.

Southwell

Going: standard

1.00 (1m) 1, Brackenthwaite (V Halliday, 9-1); 2, Mrs Dawson (10-1); 3, Special Risk (13-2). Another Kingdom 11-4 fav. 11 ran. ¾l, 3l. T Barron. Tote: £12.50; £3.50, £3.20, £1.50. DF: £58.20. CSF: £88.82. Tricast: £574.65.

1.30 (7f) 1, Greenwich Chalenge (N Gwilliams, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, Moonstruck Bard (7-4 jt-fav); 3, Master Sinclair (5-1). 5 ran. NR: Telephonic. 2½l, 1½l. W Carter. Tote: £2.60; £1.70, £1.40. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.27.

2.00 (1m 4f) 1, Clifton Chase (Dean McKeown, 11-4 fav); 2, Well And Truly (33-1); 3, Modest Hope (8-1); 4, Sugemar (16-1). 16 ran. NR: Sovereign Niche. ½l, ¾l. M Jarvis. Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £4.70, £1.90, £4.80. DF: £49.20. CSF: £84.44. Tricast: £494.56.

2.30 (7f) 1, Innocent George (L Charnock, 10-1); 2, Swinging Tich (13-8 fav); 3, Honey Vision (6-1). 6 ran. ½l, 3l. C Booth. Tote: £11.10; £4.60, £1.60. DF: £8.60. CSF: £25.40.

3.00 (1m) 1, Merryhill Madam (J Quinn, 5-2); 2, Princess Dechera (11-2); 3, Believe In Me (11-10 fav). 8 ran. 3l, 6l. J Harris. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £1.60, £1.10. DF: £10.50. CSF: £15.65.

3.30 (6f) 1, Himari Video (Dean McKeown, 5-2 fav); 2, Soba Guest (9-2); 3, Le Chic (5-1). 12 ran. 1l, nk. M Johnston. Tote: £3.30; £1.90, £1.90, £2.20. DF: £6.80. CSF: £14.09. Tricast: £49.65. Placepot: £19.60.

Cheltenham abandoned - frost.

Leicester abandoned - frost and fog.

ATHLETICS

Africans expected to demonstate Olympic domination

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE County Durham cross country meeting today brings together the gold and silver medal winners from the Olympic women's 10,000 metres, Derartu Tulu and Elana Meyer, but Liz McColgan, who was fifth in Barcelona, has passed the chance to tackle the African duo again. McColgan is on a break from racing, saving the rematch for the world cross country championship in March.

Durham would have liked its champion back, but at least has the honour of hosting Meyer's international debut at cross country. Looking tanned from the South African summer, the Olympic runner-up said yesterday that this year, without the uncertainty of whether her country would be allowed to participate at international level, she would be better prepared for the main challenge of the track world championships in Stuttgart.

She also offered a thought which suggested that McColgan's defence of the 10,000-metres world title she secured in 1991 would be harder than the winning of it. McColgan won in Tokyo by turning the screw early and Meyer said: "This year, it is going to be even more difficult to run a McColgan Tokyo-type race. She was able to break the whole field from the start, but I think that is going to get more difficult because the event has got stronger."

On the assumption that Meyer and Tulu, Ethiopia's first woman Olympic champion, will run away from the Durham field, the race for third should be led by Sonia O'Sullivan, of Ireland, who was fourth in the Olympic 3,000 metres. The most interesting aspect from a British point of view will be whether Paula Radcliffe, the world junior champion, can make her mark against her senior compatriots.

Radcliffe, 19, is in her first winter as a senior and is aiming to step immediately into the team for the world championships in Amorebieta, Spain, on March 28. She won the Bedforshire title last month and her form on the road indicates she is in competitive shape.

"I am aiming for the trials and hoping to make the team," Radcliffe said. "I think it is easier being female than male because there is less depth, so I have more chance of breaking through than a lad of my age."

Of today's race, over 5,200 metres, Radcliffe said: "I am hoping to make the top ten." If she does, she will be up near some of the best of Britain's seniors.

Although none of the leading three Britons in the 1992 world championships, Jill Hunter, Lisa York and McColgan, is entered, the other three team members, Angie Hulley, Vikki McPherson and Laura Adam, are. Radcliffe will also be up against Jenny Clague, fourth in the world junior championship, Andrea Wallace, the national 10,000 metres champion, and Andrea Whitcombe, twice the English cross country champion. Neither Hunter nor York is available for Amorebieta, so Durham will be a good selection pointer.

Over 8,000 metres, the men's race is no less likely to produce an African winner than the women's. William Mutwol, of Kenya, and the Ethiopian, Fita Bayesa, silver and bronze medal winners in the world cross country last year, head the entries. James Kariuki, of Kenya, the Durham champion, and Boay Akonay, of Tanzania, are also entered.

As with the women's race, the men's is missing the best Britons, but the next tier is well represented. The top half of Britain's 1992 world championship bronze medal winning team, Eamonn Martin, Richard Nerurkar and Dave Clarke, is absent, but the bottom half, Andy Bristow, Paul Dugdale and Mark Dalloway, is expected.

Paul Davies-Hale, Adrian Passey and Dave Lewis are all capable of places in the top six. Steve Cram, who said yesterday that he now had other plans which would prevent him from contesting a British team place for Amorebieta, has hamstring trouble which might prevent him from racing today.



Meyer: better prepared

Hudspith brings Morpeth cheer

BY DAVID POWELL

IF BRITAIN'S oldest road race, the Morpeth to Newcastle, fails to survive another year now that it has lost its main sponsor, the last name on its roll of honour will be that of a Morpeth Harrier. Mark Hudspith yesterday became the club's first representative to win the traditional 14.1-mile new year's day event since Jim Alder, the former Commonwealth marathon champion, 19 years ago.

The race, down to one-tenth of its 1992 budget, survived into 1993 on local enthusiasm. The winner last year, Paul Evans, took away £1,500: Hudspith's takings were £185. Begun in 1902, and held in all but the war years, there are doubts about whether the race can go on.

For 12 miles, Hudspith was content to stay with the lead group which, by then, was down to three. At that point, he kicked away from Peter Tootell, of Trafford, and Steve Brace, Britain's leading finisher in the Olympic marathon last year.

By the line, Hudspith's lead was 200 metres. If the race is held next year, superstition might prevent him from wanting Alder, who coaches him, to attend. Alder was not present yesterday for the first time since 1949.

Hudspith's time was 70min 24sec, with Tootell second in 71min 02sec and Brace third in 71min 06sec. It was the furthest Hudspith, 23, had raced, but soon he will be up to the marathon. "My aim is to represent Britain in the marathon at the 1996 Olympics," he said.

Brace has more immediate hopes. He wants selection for the world championships next summer, but his national ranking has slipped from first to ninth. The marathon teams of three men and three women are to be named at the end of this month.

RESULT: 1, M Hudspith (Morpeth), 1hr 10min 24sec; 2, P Tootell (Trafford), 1:11:02; 3, S Brace (Bridgend), 1:11:06. Team: 1, Morpeth Harriers, 38pts.



Lucky escape: Palmer back in action on a basketball court after the car accident in Germany that nearly cost him his life

Palmer hankers for English challenge

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

DANNY Palmer would have liked nothing better than to have faced English opponents in the final of the world invitation club championships at Crystal Palace tomorrow. Unfortunately, his German club, Stuttgart-Ludwigsburg, could not oblige and went out of the competition in the first round, beaten five seconds from time by the seventh three-pointer by Petr Treml, the Czech international, for USK Prague.

The German challenge died with that defeat, although Palmer is alive and shouting ... if only just. Two months ago, the former Crystal Palace and Portsmouth coach diced with death when his car skidded on ice on a German autobahn near Kaiserslautern and involved two other cars in the crash.

Not knowing that he had ruptured his spleen, Palmer booked into a hotel instead of a hospital only to pass out after waking up in the early hours in agony. Fortunately, he was found in time to be operated on. "Another hour and I would have died," he said. "They didn't know when they operated on me whether I would make it or not."

Palmer spent a week in intensive care while his spleen was put back together. "They reckoned I should make a full recovery," he said after watching his team throw away the game against the Czechs, "but many more games like that and I won't.

"I'd driven across Europe for that so I'm fed up." Stuttgart's inept display infuriated their coach, who now sports an ugly scar over his left eyebrow, testimony to his fall against the wash basin in his hotel bathroom. "Some of them seem to have come here just for a trip to London. I never know when they are going to play. If they do play, they can be very good. But they are not consistent."

The best known American coach in Britain before Kevin Cadle's arrival — besides being one of the most conspicuous for his 6ft 11in frame — Palmer, 43, insists that he has mellowed since he fell out with John Deacon, the Portsmouth football club chairman, who also founded the town's basketball club, which has since folded. Not that anybody sitting behind the Stuttgart bench would guess that he is any more tolerant. The players are loudly chastised for mistakes.

"Most of our players have part-time jobs or are full-time students and don't have the heart or pride of British working class kids." A product of the motor manufacturing centre of Detroit, Palmer knows all there is to know about class structure. He feels that about 80 per cent of basketball players in Britain and the United States are working class, but in Germany it is a middle class sport, which suffers accordingly.

Palmer's other interest, a marketing company, Euro Sports Service, promotes the club and he feels he will be involved, possibly as general manager, if not still as coach when his contract expires at the end of the year. But he hankers for England and the chance to work again with the best English players.

"Ideally, I'd love to return," Palmer said. "I will come back one day but I can't come back for basketball. I wouldn't make any money."

RESULTS: First round: Thames Valley Tigers 91 (Lloyd 35, Obisesili 18, L James 13), Braunschweig (Ger) 80 (Stehr 25, Svitak 22, Avdzijotiu 17); Guildford Kings 86 (Brown 18, Miller 14), Solna (Swe) 76 (Safstrom 30, Robinson 20, Marus 16).

YACHTING

Commercial Union closes on Nuclear Electric

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

JOHN Chittenden and his crew on Nuclear Electric had their lead almost halved in the British Steel Challenge yesterday, as they struggled against calms to complete the final 260 miles to Hobart. At one point, they were making little more than a knot in the right direction as their closest rivals, Commercial Union, closed the gap to 40 miles.

Vivien Cherry's crew on Coopers & Lybrand also moved back into the frame, overtaking Pride of Teesside and Group 4 Securitas, who remained within sight of each other for the third day running.

One issue in the minds of many of the crews yesterday was the decision taken by Chay Blyth, the race organiser, to divert the fleet around Amsterdam Island on the next stage of the race, across the Indian Ocean to Cape Town. Blyth is concerned by reports from competitors in the Globe Challenge of sighting up to 20 icebergs a day as high as 48 S, the same latitude that Kerguelen Island, the original turning point, lies on.

The mood within the fleet, however, is against any change to the course. Paul Jeffes, skipper of Interspray, reported back to race headquarters overnight that his crew was unanimous in rejecting the Amsterdam diversion, which would take the fleet 700 miles further north and out of the Roaring Forty latitudes.

Chittenden and Ian MacGillivray also pointed out that any move north could put the fleet at the mercy of hurricanes. Richard Merriweather, skipper of Commercial Union, suggested, instead, a latitude limit.

For many who took up the gauntlet thrown down by Blyth three years ago, who have sacrificed almost everything they own to compete, any thought of watering down the challenge now is obviously anathema.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 15:00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Hobart): 1, Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden), 368 miles; 2, Commercial Union (R Merriweather), 408; 3, Hofbrau Lager (P Goss), 532; 4, Coopers & Lybrand (V Cherry), 694; 5 equal, Pride of Teesside (I MacGillivray) and Group 4 Securitas (M Golding), 697; 7, Heath Insured (A Donovan), 770; 8, Interspray (P Jeffes), 961; 9, Rhone-Poulenc (P Phillips), 1,362.

Retired: British Steel II (R Tudor), dismasted and heading for Wellington.

☐ Race information supplied by BT.

FOOTBALL

3.00 unless stated

FA Cup

Second round replay

Bury v Wigan ....

Third round

Aston Villa v Bristol Rovers ....
Blackburn v Bournemouth ....
Brentford v Grimsby ....
Brighton v Portsmouth ....
Cambridge Utd v Sheffield Wed (all ticket) ....
Crewe v Marine ....
Derby v Stockport ....
Gillingham v Huddersfield ....
Hartlepool v Crystal Palace (all ticket) ....
Ipswich v Plymouth .... P (to be played on January 13).
Leeds v Charlton ....
Leicester v Barnsley ....
Luton v Bristol City ....
Manchester City v Reading ....
Marlow v Tottenham (at White Hart Lane) ....
Newcastle v Port Vale ....
Northampton v Rotherham (all ticket) ....
Norwich v Coventry ....
Notts County v Sunderland ....
Oldham v Tranmere ....
Sheffield Utd v Burnley ....
Southend v Millwall ....
Swansea v Oxford Utd ....
Watford v Wolverhampton ....
West Bromwich v West Ham ....
Wimbledon v Everton ....
Yeovil v Arsenal (all ticket) ....

REPLAY DATES (7.45 unless stated). January 12: Arsenal v Yeovil, Bristol C v Luton, Burnley v Sheff Utd (7.30); Oxford v Swansea; Portsmouth v Brighton; Rotherham v Northampton (7.30); Swindon v QPR, Tranmere v Oldham. January 13: Barnsley v Leicester; Bournemouth v Blackburn, Bristol R v Aston Villa (8.0), Charlton v Leeds, Chelsea v Middlesbro (7.30), Coventry v Norwich; C Palace v Hartlepool (8.00); Everton v Wimbledon (7.30; Tuesday if Liverpool involved in replay), Grimsby v Brentford; Huddersfield v Gillingham (7.30); Liverpool v Bolton (7.30), Malmo v Crewe (7.30); Millwall v Southend; Port Vale v Newcastle; Reading v Man City; Sheff Wed v Camb Utd, Luton v Notts For (7.30), Stockport v Derby (7.30); Sunderland v Notts Cty; Tottenham v Marlow; West Ham v West Brom; Wolves v Watford (7.30).

Barclays League

First division

Birmingham v Peterborough....

Second division

Bradford v Mansfield....
Chester v Layton Orient....
Stoke v Exeter .... P

Third division

Barnet v Darlington....
Cardiff v Hereford....
Doncaster v Rochdale ....
Halifax v Lincoln....
Shrewsbury v Wrexham....
Torquay v Scarborough....
Walsall v Colchester....
York v Carlisle....

GM Vauxhall Conference

Boston v Dagenham and Redbridge ....
Bromsgrove v Bath ....
Gateshead v Stafford ....
Kettering v Telford ....
Merthyr v Kidderminster ....
Runcorn v Altrincham ....
Slough v Woking ....
Stalybridge v Northwich ....
Welling v Wycombe ....
Witton v Macclesfield ....

Scottish League

Premier division

Aberdeen v Dundee ....
Airdrie v Falkirk ....
Dundee Utd v St Johnstone ....
Hibernian v Hearts ....
Partick v Motherwell ....
Rangers v Celtic ....

First division

Ayr v Kilmarnock ....
Clydebank v Dumbarton ....
Dunfermline v Raith ....
Morton v St Mirren ....
Stirling v Hamilton ....

Second division

Alloa v East Fife ....
Arbroath v Forfar ....
Berwick v Stenhousemuir ....
Clyde v East Stirling ....
Montrose v Brechin ....
Queen of South v Stranraer ....
Queen's Park v Albion (1.30) ....

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Bognor Regis v Stevenage Borough; Carshalton v Aylesbury; Chesham v Hendon, Enfield v Windsor and Eton; Grays v Bromley; Hayes v Sutton United; Kingstonian v Hanow; St Albans v Dulwich; Staines v Wivenhoe; Yeading v Wokingham. First division: Abingdon Town v Boreham Wood; Aveley v Lewes; Barking v Billericay; Bishop's Stortford v Chalfont St Peter; Croydon v Uxbridge; Dorking v Heybridge Swifts, Maidenhead v Whyteleafe; Molesey v Wembley; Tooting and Mitcham v Leyton; Walton and Hersham v Purfleet. Second division: Banstead Athletic v Worthing; Berkhamsted v Ruislip Manor; Chertsey v Tilbury; Hampton v Ware; Hemel Hempstead v Metropolitan Police; Malden Vale v Harefield, Newbury v Leatherhead; Rainham v Barton; Saffron Walden v Egham; Southall v Hungerford; Witham v Edgware. Third division: Camberley v Tring; Clapton v Aldershot Town; Colter Row v Rickmell Heath, Cove v East Thurrock; Feltham and Hounslow v Horsham; Kingsbury v Thame; Leighton v Royston; Northwood v Bracknell; Petersfield v Hertford.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Morecambe; Buxton v Matlock, Chorley v Frickley; Droylsden v Colwyn Bay; Emley v Gainsborough; Goole v Bishop Auckland; Horwich v Southport; Leek v Whitley Bay; Winsford v Barrow. First division: Bridlington Town v Eastwood Town; Congleton v Knowsley; Guiseley v Great Harwood; Harrogate v Curzon Ashton, Lancaster City v Workzop; Nathenfield v Gretna; Rossendale v Ashton United; Shepshed Albion v Farsley Celtic; Workington v Warrington.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballyclare v Larne, Bangor v Distillery; Carrick v Ballymena; Citizenville v Linfield, Coleraine v Glenavon; Glentoran v Crusaders; Omagh Town v Ards; Portadown v Newry.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford v Solihull; Corby v Hednesford; Crawley v VS Rugby; Dorchester v Dover; Halesowen v Trowbridge; Hastings v Weymouth; Moor Green v Atherstone; Worcester v Cheltenham. Midland division: Bilston v Rushden and Diamonds; Forest Green Rovers v Bedworth; Leicester United v Gresley; Newport AFC v Redditch; Nuneaton Borough v Sutton Coldfield; RC Warwick v King's Lynn; Stourbridge v Grantham; Tamworth v Barr; Weston-super-Mare v Hinckley, Yate v Bridgnorth. Southern division: Braintree v Ashford; Burnham v Baldock; Bury Town v Erith and Belvedere; Canterbury City v Poole; Fisher Athletic v Buckingham; Margate v Newport, IoW; Salisbury v Sudbury; Sittingbourne v Gravesend and Northfleet; Witney v Andover.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Inter Cardiff (2.00); Bangor v Newtown; Caersws v Holywell; Connah's Quay v Porthmadog; Conwy v Mold (2.30); Cwmbran v Afan Lido; Ebbw Vale v Briton Ferry; Flint v Llanidloes; Haverfordwest v Llanelli; Maesteg Park v Abergavenny.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia v Whitby; Blyth Spartans v Consett; Durham City v Brandon; Ferryhill Athletic v Chester-le-Street; Gateshead v Murton; Northallerton v South Bank; Seaham Red Star v Easington Colliery; Stockton v Tow Law; West Auckland v Peterlee Newtown.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Winterton Rangers; Brigg v Armthorpe Welfare; Glasshoughton Wel v Harrogate Railway; Maltby MW v Ossett Albion; North Ferriby; Pickering v Eccleshill; Spennymoor v Ossett Town; Sheffield v Dunsby; Thackley v Ashfield.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Brantham Athletic v Felixstowe; Clacton v Gorleston; Great Yarmouth v Diss; Haverhill v Wroxham; Histon v Newmarket; Lowestoft v Brightlingsea; March v Norwich United; Stowmarket v Wisbech; Tiptree v Chatteris; Wiston v Halstead.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v Enfield; Chertsey v Old Meadonians; Old Danes v Old Wilsonians; Old Tiffinians v Glyn.

FOOTBALL

FA Cup

Third round

Bolton v Liverpool (all ticket, 12.00) ....
Middlesbrough v Chelsea (2.00) ....
Nottm Forest v Southampton (3.05)..

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians v Bray Wanderers (3.30); Cork City v Shelbourne (2.15); Dundalk v Limerick (3.30); Sligo Rovers v Shamrock Rovers (2.15); St Patrick's Athletic v Drogheda United (2.15); Waterford v Derry City (2.15).

WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fourth round (2.00): Leasowe Pacific v Bristol Backwell; Abbeydale v Millwall Lionesses.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Maidstone Tigresses v Stanton Rangers; Epsom and Ewell v Ipswich Town; Arsenal v Saltdean United; Sheffield Wednesday v Wolverhampton.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Wealdstone v Havant.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: St Helens v Leigh (3.00). Second division: Bramley v Carlisle (3.30); Huddersfield v Featherstone (3.30); Rochdale v London Crusaders (3.00); Swinton v Oldham (3.00). Third division: Barrow v Workington (2.30); Batley v Dewsbury (2.15); Chorley v Highfield (2.15); Nottingham City v Hunslet (3.00); Whitehaven v Blackpool (2.30).

BOWLS

BODDINGTONS FYLDE CLASSIC (at Newton Hall, Blackpool, 10.00).

TENNIS

VAUXHALL INDOOR TROPHY: Men: Area ties: Edward Allayn's Dulwich A v David Lloyd Chigwell; Walton Astro's v Connaught Club.

OTHER SPORT

CYCLO-CROSS: World championships (at Wolverhampton).

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm v Torrington; Clevedon v Westbury; Dawlish v Bideford; Exmouth v Minehead; Frome v Paulton; Liskeard Athletic v Chard; Plymouth Argyle v Chippenham; Taunton v Elmore; Tiverton v Torquay United.

ABACUS LEAGUE: Cyril Rogers Cup: Second round: Bridgend v Morriston; Goytre v AFC Porth; Pembroke v Pontyclun; Llanwern v Pontyp; Cardiff Corries v Milford; Blaenrhondda v Carmarthen; Garw v Penrhiwceiber; Treharris v Ton Pentre. First division: Aberaman v Brecon; Ammanford v Port Talbot; Caldicot v Pontypridd-Ynysaytwf; Ferndale v Caerleon.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Midland Bank v Old Bromleians; NatWest Bank v Castellon; Old Actonians v West Wickham; Old Esthamelans v South Bank Poly; Old Parkonians v Crouch End Vampires; Alexandra Park v Lloyds Bank; Southgate Olympic v Ibis; Windmore Hill v Old Salesians; Alleyn Old Boys v Old Parmiterians; Queen v Reigate Priory; Old Lyonians v Bank of England; Royal Bank of Scotland v East Barnet OG.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Carthusians v Old Chigwellians; Old Malvernians v Old Cholmeleians. First division: Old Brentwoods v Old Aldenhamians.

BOWLS

HAVEN/COMMERCIAL UNION INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Fifth round: South Tyneside v Great Ayciffe; Swinton v Grantham; Paddington v Cyphers; Folkestone v Worthing Pavilion; Herts v Clevedon; Dorchester v Torbay; Peterborough v Perdiswell; Beccles v Ipswich; Cambridge Park v Lewisham; Preston v Victory; Stanley v Hartlepool; York v Nottingham City of Ely v City of Coventry; North Walsham v Falcon; Luton v Westlecot; Stour Vale v Teignbridge.

BODDINGTONS FYLDE CLASSIC (at Newton Hall, Blackpool, 10.00).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Regal Trophy, semi-final

Wigan v Hull (3.00).....

ATHLETICS

Cross country

World cross challenge (Durham).

RUGBY UNION

Scottish trial

Blues v Reds (at Murrayfield, 2.00) ...

Heineken Welsh League (2.30)

First division

Aberavon v Newbridge ....
Bridgend v Llanelli ....
Newport v South Wales Police ....
Pontypool v Neath ....
Pontypridd v Cardiff ....
Swansea v Maesteg ....

Second division

Abertillery v Blaina ....
Cross Keys v Tenby United ....
Ebbw Vale v Dunvant ....
Glamorgan Wanderers v Llanharan ....
Llandovery v Tredegar ....
Narberth v Penarth ....

THIRD DIVISION: Blackwood v Aberavon Quins; Kenfig Hill v Wrexham; Mountain Ash v Abercynon; St Peters v Rumney; Treorchy v Bonymaen; Tumble v Pontypool United. Fourth division: Builth Wells v Colwyn Bay; Carmarthen v Cardiff Quins; Glamorgan v Cardigan; Kidwelly v Tondu; Ruthin v Varoka; Ystradgynlais v Cilfynydd.

Club matches

Ayr v Selkirk (2.00) ....
Bath v Sale ....
Bedford v Rosslyn Park ....
Berry Hill v Hereford (2.30) ....
Bristol v Nottingham ....
Carnforthine v Boroughmuir (2.00) ....
Coventry v Orrell ....
Currie v Grangemouth (2.00) ....
Edinburgh Acad v Kelso (2.00) ....
Gloucester v Moseley ....
Harrogate v Otley (2.15) ....
Heriot's FP v Hawick ....
Leeds v Leicester ....
Liverpool St Helens v Kendal (2.30) ..
London Irish v Blackheath ....
L Welsh v L Scottish (2.15) ....
Morley v Northampton ....
Musselburgh v Melrose (2.00) ....
Newcastle Gosforth v Aspatria ....
Nuneaton v Lydney ....
Plymouth Albion v Waspe (2.30) ....
Richmond v Saracens (2.30) ....
Rotherham v Broughton Park (2.15) ..
Rugby v Harlequins C
Stewart's Mel FP v Dundee HSFP (2.00) ....
Stirling County v Watsonians ....
Waterloo v Fylde (2.15) ....
West Hartlepool v Sheffield ....
West of Scotland v Edinburgh Wanderers (2.00) ....
Wigtownshire v Clarkston (2.00)

PROVINCIAL INSURANCE CUP: Fifth round: North: Sephill v Phoenix Park. Sixth round: North: Old Alleynians v Wigston; Old Centrals v Kidderminster Carolians; Windermere v Fleetwood. South: Chipping Sodbury v Stow-on-the-Wold; Datchworth v Tring; Hitchin v Barnet; Thatcham v Chosen Hill FP.

NETBALL

ENGLISH COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Essex Met v Birmingham; Hampshire North v Kent; Hertfordshire v Bedfordshire; Surrey v Middlesex. Second division: Humberside v Nottinghamshire; Northamptonshire v Cheshire; Gloucestershire v Mid Hampshire; East Essex v West Yorkshire.

HOCKEY

Indians heed Chelmsford SOS

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

TWO more India Olympic players, Balwinder Singh and Gundeep Kumar, are to appear on the English domestic scene. The pair will play for Chelmsford when the Pizza Express National League resumes on January 24. Both represented India as forwards at the 1988 Olympic Games and are now registered with the Hockey Association.

"We need some points to stay in the league and we are hoping that these players will help us to achieve our aim," Crawford McKee, the Chelmsford manager, said yesterday. Chelmsford are last but one in the second division with five points from ten games. Below them are Lyons with only three.

The contact for Chelmsford was made through Indian Gymkhana, whose three Olympic players — Jude Felix, Dhanraj Pillay and Mark Patterson — have lifted them to second position and raised their promotion hopes.

Indoor activity resumes tomorrow when Edgbaston, Barford Tigers, Cannock, Harborne, Stourport and Beeston take part in the Midlands club championship at Cocks Moors Woods leisure centre, Birmingham. The teams finishing first and second will represent the Midlands in the final stages of the national indoor club championship at Crystal Palace, London, on January 22.

The clubs who have already qualified are St Albans, the holders, East Grinstead, Blackheath, Firebrands, Old Loughtonians and Welton.

St Albans' first objective will be the Glenfiddich International tournament in Glasgow this weekend.

GOLF

Five take share of lead in California tournament

Pebble Beach, California: Five players shared the lead at four under par after the first round of the Pebble Beach Invitational tournament yesterday.

Marks Brooks, Tom Lehman, Duffy Waldorf, Bruce Fleisher and Chuck Milne, all of the United States, shot rounds of 68 to go into the clubhouse level. Rick Fehr and Mark Wiebe were one stroke back, with seven others two behind.

The tournament is played on three courses on the Monterey Peninsula. Pebble Beach, Spyglass Hill and Poppy Hills. It features players from the US PGA, Senior US PGA and US LPGA tours competing for the top prize of $50,000 (about £33,000). Brooks, Lehman, Waldorf and Milne played at Pebble Beach on Thursday, while Fleisher was in action on the Spyglass course.

Juli Inkster, who won the event two years ago, and Cindy Rarick were the leading women players after the first round, on 70. George Archer shot 71, beating the five other Senior Tour players in the field.

The men play from the championship tees, while Senior Tour and women players get a yardage concession.

FIRST-ROUND SCORES (all US): 68: M Brooks, C Milne, B Fleisher, T Lehman, D Waldorf. 69: R Fehr, M Wiebe. 70: J Inkster, J Brehaut, M Danziger, D Stockton. 71: T Byrum, B May, G McCord, T Fisher, R Mattila, B Mooty, C Gibson, G Archer, M Molton. 72: C Worley, M Soli. 73: K Triplett, J Schroeder, B Burton, D Trider, J Wilson, J Elliott, B Friend, B Lasken, M Reid. 74: J Furyk, D Lofland, B Lipper, B Glider, J Davis III, K Perry, J Gonzales, J Haller, M Tacheter, T Dill, S Pate, J Dant, M Springer, S McEnsee, K Lasken, W Woods.

BOXING

Ex-African champion critically ill

Harare: The former African heavyweight champion, Proud Kilimanjaro Chinembiri, is critically ill with tuberculosis, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The independent *Daily Gazette* said Chinembiri, 35, was discharged from hospital on December 9, evidently at the end of treatment. "I've had my time. It is over now," Chinembiri said.

Chinembiri, holder of the African Boxing Confederation heavyweight title, was banned from the Commonwealth championships in 1990 after he refused to make known the results of a compulsory blood test for HIV.

Tuberculosis is a common complication of Aids.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

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English & Philosophy
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Ordinary: S L Chan; M-D Cunningham-Reid; D H Erskine; J L R Gerard; N J Grahame; R Gunning; A H Knight; A J Lillendale; C A McClenaghan; F C Mottershaw; K N Robb; J D'R Ross; N A Smith; J Yoni
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Ordinary: S M Tung

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Hons: N O Carracher
Zoology (Marine and Fisheries Biology)
Hons: G T Wilson
Designated: J H Jagtiani (Genetics); D Muir (Tropical Environmental Science); S J Stephen (Zoology)
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Biochemistry-Genetics
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Hons: W R Corner; L C Doig; C J Dowdell; A C King; J P J McCue; H J Moir
Geology and Petroleum Geology
Class I Hons: L I Anderson
Hons: G R Ballantyne; P S Bankhead; J T Lines; A J McHattie; E C Maclean; S T McPhail; G Maxwell; M A Monaghan; M Whyte
Mathematics
Class I Hons: C J Boyd; J K Cockburn; N Kamouchi; W A Shortt
Hons: P J Allan; A S Buchan; A Fox; W D Leith; P A McFadden; N D McLean; S R Paterson
Mathematics-Physics
Class I Hons: S Morrison; D M Walker
Hons: M H Noble
Mathematics-Statistics
Hons: A M Crook; S C A Docherty; K L Farries; K Sanders

LLB
Commendation: M B Holmes
Ordinary: P D Arnell; V H Bell; L Brown; A M Carmichael; B W Evans; D F Findlay; L Gordon; L M Henry; J B Hogg; P-A W Hughes; A Hughson; J E Ledgerwood; A M McAdam; J M MacColl; K A MacIver; E Mackinnon; G A Masson; N K Mathie; P A Michie; A Morgan (with German); J Parker; C M Percy-Robb; S M Sim; G C Smith; J E Thomson; K A Tinto; G M Urquhart; M M Ward; A Wernham; K Willox; S J Yellop

BSc (Hons)

Crop and Soil Science
Hons: T Montague; S J Smith
Environmental Microbiology
Class I Hons: D M MacGregor
Microbiology
Class I Hons: S Carman
Hons: W M Ferguson; J Hill; N Reid; N J Ross-Smith; M N Sampson; B L Walmisley; S Walsh
Microbiology-Genetics
Class I Hons: C M Wood
Hons: S D Purdon
Pharmacology
Hons: G G Baldie; D F Basri; J A Buchan; A J R Cormack; N C Eastmond; S R Fernando; G Griffin; H A Johnstone; Z Khusaimi; C L Loh; A M McGregor; S M Junit; J M Newsome; F M Nicholson; J E Stewart; J C Truswell; S Wavamunno
Physics
Class I Hons: B Hay; S Lonie
Hons: D Brown; A Dunnett; R M MacPherson; C E Stewart; K C Watson
Physiology
Class I Hons: D W Allan; A I Love
Hons: T A Collins; G R Fanning; A P Lee; J O Pereira
Plant Science
Class I Hons: J A Wright
Hons: A M Horsburgh; *S Xenophontos*
Plant and Soil Science
Hons: A-M Davey
Psychology
Class I Hons: N A F Cain
Hons: S L Blockley; V A B Buchan; D T Elcock; H E Eyles; D Golightly; K Lawrie; K W Wallace; G F Waller
Soil Science
Hons: M C Coull; D S Mitchell
Statistics
Class I Hons: N A Hay
Hons: J A Mollison; K I Penny
Tropical Environmental Science
Hons: D J R Conway; M R Matthews; R Paramanathan
Zoology
Class I Hons: S C Borwick; K M Darling
Hons: L C Appleton; S C M Cameron; G Davidson; E H Dobree; S S Glen; F M Leckie; J Lorrain-Smith; C A McClung; J S Murray; D S Oliver; K L Pentelow; S M Tulloch; S M Yarrow
Zoology (Animal Cell Science)
Hons: C A Hehn
Zoology (Animal Ecology)
Class I Hons: C J Cutts; G W McLaren
Hons: *S L Bence; K C Nelson; S G* Parkinson
Zoology (Cell and Immunobiology)
Class I Hons: A Sandilands
Hons: L A Blair; K J McElwee
Zoology (Environmental Physiology)
Hons: K M Begbie
Zoology (Marine and Fisheries Biology)
Class I Hons: D A Clarke; M J Harvey
Hons: C M Bell; I W Buchan; B Buchanan; J Douglass; B K Gray; J A Houseman; A Linnane; B Moslos; E A Muckiow; S H O'Neill; K G Thom; E P *Toomey; I P Wynne*
Zoology (Parasitology)
Hons: K I McAndrew

BScEng (Hons)
Hons: J C M Andrews; Q G Davidson

BEng (Hons)
Class I Hons: R Bryce; T M Chambers; D M Eunson; Ho Chu Min; K C Kwang; Lee Pin Hian; S M Lee; Leo Chin John; C T Sim; G J Simpson; Teh Chin Foo
Hons: R N A Baxter; J R F Bennett; M A Beveridge; C G Bruce; J P Bruce; J Bruce; K A Chalmers; K H Cheng; C R Childs; Choy Hing Sang; A G Clark; J P Corkhill; A D Crozier; R F Davidson; T Dawson; N B Deans; C M Duffy; A D Duncan; F J Evans; S C Fernando; C J Goldsworthy; H T Hansen; Y S Heng; H C Khow; J R Hoare; K P Johnstone; S Kelly; Kok Choon Seng; C Laird; L Lam; T M Lam; Lim Koon Yong; M H A Lim; Lim Shen Wee; A Ling Siew Kong; K K Lo; Low Chen Wah; K J Macarthur; A D McGlynn; A P Mann; M F Martin; R B Matthews; M H Moslim; M B Mustafa; S R Nelson; L K Nyachae; A P Ong; P S Parsons; J E Paton; M J Pattullo; J A Pike; C W Poon; S D Porter; D A Reid; I A Robertson; K I Rygh; M Sakmud; D S Sananikone; M A Sanderson; R J Sheldon; M A Shortt; A R Slessor; C J Smith; D S Steel; Tan Chuan Yee; R D Taylor; P-L Teo; A M Thompson; A M Todd; N Turnbull; S C Wade; M D Watson; R C Watson; S L G Watson; C M Webster; A E Williamson; I M Wong; K H Wong; Y B Abdullah

MB ChB
Hons: *S Clive; I B Craighead; L J* Donald; T D O'Leary
Commendation: A G Shand
Ordinary: L J A'Hara; H M M D A Ali; P M Baughan; H S Bijral; J G Blake; A J Boshier; S Brechin; A J Caramello; F Charleson; B P Cheesman; J L Cheng; T M Cope; P A Costello; S L Coull; A L Cox; N J A Craig; F J Cutler; L Dalley; K J Datta; L Donaldson; P S Duffy; P A Ewing; J M deC Fagerson; P S Fitch; A J Gavin; E S Gillespie; P M Gillies; D N Gordon; N M Grant; T N Hall; L R Harvey; S C Henderson; S E Hepple; C D Hewitt; N A Hobson; S A E Hogg; D K B Hooper; E J Hutchison; J P Hyde; G S Irons; W F Kaawach; H K V Kam; H N Kassim; R Z Khan; S L King; A Kochhar; E J Lacey; C F Leven; B S Liew; D K C Lim; D M McBeath; S A McCarthy; A S MacDonald; R MacDonald; L M Macfarlane; R N McKechnie; R K MacKenzie; L S McWilliam; C J Mair; C W Martin; D M Marwick; D R Mickel; K J Miller; W H Mouat; M T O'Brien; A J O'Leary; B O'Rourke; K N Ogston; J M D S Pereira; S K Philip; A Rashid; K H Reed; S U Rehman; P M Reynolds; A N Ritchie; S A Ritchie; P A Robless; C S K Ross; M Q Russell; W Sabbagh; A Segar; J Shakur; S D Sharma; V Shenolikar; G L Smith; I C Smith; G E Stewart; R N M Stitson; A J Stout; M Taylor; W M-K Teoh; C H J Tham; E A Thistlethwaite; M M Warwick; S Welluppillai; C C S Wilson; Y F Yang; S S Yusof; Y T Tiing

BMedBiol
Ordinary: W J Olver

BMedSci
Class I Hons: K E Adams; L Erskine; J S McLaren; J B Murray; P R C Smith; J E H Wang
Hons: S Barton; S S Chohan; D S Cordiner; S L Cunningham; P S Fitch; P D Hayes; V C Johnson; M J McErlain; A M McIntosh; P Murchie; J A Spiller

BSc (Health Sciences) (Hons)

Health Care
Hons: L R Alexander; N S C Bain; C E Guest; J R K Watkins

BScEng
Ordinary: A Arjomand-Sisan; A Mohammad; G D Wilson

BSc
Designated degrees: E L Baker (Psychology); E A Bremner (Chemistry); S Brown (Anatomy); H E Davidson (Biology); V L Dobson (Biology); A J Edwards (Zoology); M C A Francis (Tropical Environmental Science); S Gibson (Psychology); M-J Gordon (Biochemistry); V Ingram (Statistics); A S J Innes (Computing Science); I D Johnston (Psychology); J Michael (Psychology); G W Morrison (Geography); J T Osler (Genetics); C A Shearer (Geography); M Stevens (Geography)
Ordinary: M M Burcksen; S I Campbell; R J G Edwards; M J Field; H G Friel; L B Gove; L A D Graham; D D Kerr; M MacDonald; S-M McLaughlin; D M S Mann; D Massie; D L Melhuish-Jones; L A Murdoch; D A Phelps; S B Rigg; S Robertson; S Smith

LONDON

University College

Faculty of Arts

BA

Dutch
Class II (Div 1): S M McLoskey; C E Murray
Class II (Div 2): S H Van Haren
English
Class I: J C Badcock; G M Evans; A P Hiller; S Mathews; S J Mays; A F Nalder; W B Tollemache
Class II (Div 1): A S Black; K M E Blacker; C M Burrows; A J Clough; C R F Cole; G E E Davies; J B Dearlove; J I Featherstone; C E Greenwood; P M Kaye; J S Lemmon; E A Mitchell; J M Nabarro; M H Pickup; R E Scanlan; C R M Spencer; M J Trestrail; D C Vincent; E L Watts; *F Williams*
Class II (Div 2): A Alam; S Din; O M Duffy; R W Pradgley; V Frances; K B Haldane; K Hawkins; J C Hole; C M Lawless; L A Li; N Lindsay; C E Mayhew; D E McGushin; H C McKirdy; C M Mewton; A Mills; J L Moses; H C Myers; K S Scott; A M F Sheridan; S L Surgeoner; G Syti; L M Thomlinson; M C Watson; Z Wood
Class III: A J Stevenson
Fine Art
Class I: D F Holland
Class II (Div 1): J B Cox; N A Davey; R T Grimes; F J Holland; A Hopkins; A S Kuczynski; P N McNamara; J E Mortimer; D G Powell; A Y Seto; D M Southwell; S F Tomlinson; S Weatherall
Class II (Div 2): M R M Bonfim; M E Mitchell; S Worthington
French
Class I: K E Fraser; D A Lister
Class II (Div 1): C R Bird; J S Cornwell; N Denny; D E Fisher; S V Gorman; M C Jacobs; M D B C Llamas Y Gonzalez De Amezua; T L Moore; T Nassif; J O'Keefe; C M Oakley; P A Stoughton; H F Tyrrell
Class II (Div 2): R J Ballhache; S J Bramwell; C L Bruce; C L Cole; M S Currie; W A Gooda; C L Grouvel; A K Harley; D C V C Hewitt; V R A McClure; S D P Rees; T A Refson; A M Shortt; C N Stedman; E J Swart; J M Walker
German
Class II (Div 1): K J Maddick
Class II (Div 2): R G Keene
Dutch and German
Class I: S Dodd
Dutch and Italian
Class II (Div 1): M C Parkin
English and German
Class I: J E E Porsmann; C S Langmuur
German and Scandinavian Studies
Class II (Div 1): U-K E Newton; C L Tonkiss; M F Woodhead
Italian and Latin
Class I: C L Judah
Italian and Linguistics
Class II (Div 1): E D'Amore
Spanish with French
Class II (Div 1): J T Douglas; P J Q Greenleaf

Faculty of Laws

LLB
(Internal Students)
Class I: R-J A Barry; A Butt; D C Egan; E M Kasmer; P J Moffatt
Class II (Div 1): H A Anderson; N A Atkins; G S Aiwal; J A T Bailey; S Cohen; W T Crofts; J J Croxford; E K Flowers; E T Fox; P Garwood; D P Gaskin; V L Gavin; B Gill; A J Gillen; S B Gondal; S Goswami; S J Gowing; J C Harrod; R Hart; A K Jhingan; R Jolles; M Kamhi; A M Kennedy; J F Kingsley; J A Luck; N J McCormick; P S C Mills; J M Nalliah; C M O'Toole; W A Odubeko; I Phillliskirk; N T J Pincott; M Prinja; L Quinn; K L Robson; K Scordis; J E Smart; N W Stonor; M M G Thienes; A M Thomas; N T Tsatsas; M B Walsh; S P Williams; F Y M Wong; S J Woodley
Class II (Div 2): T U Ahmed; M Arif; E J Bartle; M C Base; M J Brown; N D Burns; S K Chaudhary; K A Clerkin; K Date-Bah; M R Dwek; A M W Y Fung; L J Friedman; N J Gibbs; P Hariri; M E Hing; A S Hulmes; J C Jenkins; T D W Jones; S N Khan; W Labuschagne; A R Lewin; D R Lines; S L Loomba; M E Loosemore; E C Lush; J K Morgan; A V Nurse; M A Palmer; P K Patel; M A Pierce; Y Pressman; S D Ryb; S K Sahota; D A O Sasegbon; N Savvides; M L Sinnott; S R Skinner; K J Smith; K L Stephenson; K Stoddart; R Sudholme; M S Tobin; M R Treacher; M L C Tsang; A H Tusch; S Udovicic; S E Waddington; A M Wheeler; P A Wolstenholme; D L Yeap
Class III: N Chrysanthou; A E Franco; H Hashmi; E B Katz; D Lam; R N Malik; J C Rice; A A Ring

LLB
Law with Further Studies (Internal Students)
Class II (Div 1): J W Wood
Class II (Div 2): S R Antonel

Faculty of Arts

BA
Class I: A J Beresford; A Brady; R G Bunting; J D De La Hey; C P Farr; J Hooper; A M Laslett; K L Lay; K L Meheux; P R Pfisterer; W P Ridley; B S Robertson; K A Rudkin; A M Russell; N M Stephens; A I Stewart; S J Winstanley
Class II (Div 1): N K Abeyaratne; C Angell; J N Babb; E J Bale; C B Batten; J F Beeching; R A L Bennett; T V Borsig; M J Bradley; D G W Brett; P Bright; J Brunert; G A C Chan; S A Chapman; V A Collins; V C Cooney; J Court; M E De Rham; J L Dennis; Z J Dollmay; J N Edwards; T W G Erskine Crum; G C J Evans; C M Faughey; D Fernandez Calerl; D J Firmstone; A J Fitzpatrick; L C Furness; C J Garcia; C L Gibbons; H R Goodman; P M Grogan; M A Grosvenor; J A Hallgarten; N C Hanna; A Herskovitz; M A Hill; C Hilliard; V A Hogg; J M P Houghton; L J Hudson; N V Hymer; A D Johnston; R W Kemp-Luck; T A S Kosta; Z J Langley; J S Lawrence; T C S Machling; K G Mansell; L J Martin; C M McAlister; C L Miller; T J Monks; J Moore; M E F Mounayer; I W L Murdoch; P J Murray; C J Neal; B Nieto Camero; S B Norman; E Panayi; T T Parker; G A Pepper; J C Phillips; L M Randall; A T Randle; B H Read; E M D Ritchie; M G Rogers; G P Sibley; A M Smith; R Smith; V A Smith; M A Spitteler; N Stevens; M N Stewart; S Swales; W Y Tsang; D C Uffindell; J Vinuales; M C Wanstall; T E J Ward; N F Webster; W S Whittle; H R Williams; R W Williams; J S Winterburn; W K Wood
Class II (Div 2): R S Bacon; N E H Baker; J M Beacall; T Blakeley; M Bosman; J D H Braham; K L Bromet; D A A Bromley; I Budh-Raja; A Caplin; T J Constable; T A Cornish; D R Craig; P B Crouch; P J Davis; S T Drawbell; D L Frost; L J Goswell; S C D Hanson; G Harris; C M Hayward; A R F Hill; C T Islef; M B P A B Ismaeel; K Jeger; W A M O Jodrell; C L King; S M Lambert; F C Lewis; G P Lunt; G G Marshall; S S Matharu; N K Michaelsen; G J Middleton; G Patacchiola; J H C Porritt; I Powell; A J Read; A J Rees; J C Rich; P D Rowse; E J Scott; M V Stone; N P Taylor; B A Webb; P M Wicksteed; E B Williams
Class III: J V French; J A Gowing; J R May; M Loughlin; E R Merton; M A Phelan
Pass: E C G Clark

Faculty of Science

BSc
Class I: P Akther; M I M Al Jaghoub; K E Ashelford; P N Ashley; R E Asquith; S Barzilai; S R Berkovitz; V Berzins; S M Bloor; A P Bolger; J M Bower; L V Braine; D K Brundish; M J Buchanan Lake; D R Bull; A J Buxton; N E Carpenter; V E Caswell; A A Church; P C Church; G B Conder; L E Court; D R Croft; G C Crowther; M K Davey; A P Davies; C R Davies; C K N Davis; E P Dearman; H J Dell; E Drewe; J Fawcett; C-L Fordham; L S M Fraser; E V Freedman; R J Gardner; A Giese; F T Gleeson; A W Gray; W Groom; S R Gunny; T Guram; P A Hammond; C D A Harpur; A J Hartley; A C Hayden; P B Hibbard; N J Howell; C P Hughes; K A Johnson; S K Kamboj; S L Kent; C A Key; A A Khan; J M Lamb; M Landgraf; A R Latchford; F L Law; S J Le Good; M K T Lee; C S J Leeson; M Litchfield; G A M Loveman; M S Lucas; A K Macgregor; M A Kalik; B Manzouri; K A McNally; A C V Megeney; S J Mellallieu; C A Millward; D G Morris; R C Ogle; T C Onyirioha; L Parvama; J L Persaud; I R Pinkstone; T R Rashid; A K Rehman; A C Rice; *M J Riches; S A B* Ridgway; J F S Ritchie; J K Roberts; D Ross; J E Russell; D E Sibert; S G P Slou; C Smith; W E Spall; D R Stevens; C Stoneman; J M Sutherland; K R Sutherland; V J Szczudlo; J L Thomas; S D Thomas; G H Topham; C F Townsend; M L Train; D Viachogiannis; N R Walsh; P T C Wan; S P Webb
Class II (Div 1): N R Aebi; M S Afif; A M Agapitos; R Alakeson; S H Allcorn; C S Allen; P F G Antoniazzi; *S M Ashworth;* A P Austin; T Austin; A J Ayers; C N Bagot; C S Bailey; S J Bailey; E M S Banks; M E Banwell; F Z Barber; J Barclay; A J Barker; P J Barker; B R Barr; M T D Barrett; S Barreau; M R Barrow; J A Bates; A Bayat; C J Bayer; E V Bearpark; C P Beeson; S M Belderbos; J S Berrington; B J Billups; F A Bin Ahmad Noor; J P Blackburn; R S Block; B Boberska; V Bochkareva; R L Bolt; K S Bostock; A J Bound; S C Bourne; L K Bowles; N J M Bradshaw; N T Breitschmid; J R G Brinsden; S K Brown; R K Bruton; E C Brutus; R M Bryer; A T Bucknill; T C Butcher; S S Butterton; E A Botton; J E Calam; A C H Calderwood; R C Cannon; C J C Cash; R F Casson; N Cavale; S Cavanagh; M Cave; P M Chard; Z Chaudhry; H A Chen; V T L Chen; B J Chilcott; K S A Chong; I W Choudhury; M K Christians; F H Christie; A Chung; D A Clamp; A K Clark; M A Cloud; L G Coccia; H J Collins; W J Collins; L J Comer; M C Conry; S R Cooper; C L Copping; L Cornali; R M Correling; M Costa; M S Costelloe; D E Crawford; N B Cronin; A M C Da Tos; F L Dalve; G J Dawson; P T J Dawson; F K Dean; G L Deighton; A C Dey; M Dhanji; A S Dias; J K Dillon; S C O Dodd; L J Donaldson; T E Dowsett; B S C Duffy; V M Duke; N D C Duncan; S M Dunkley; M J Edwards; M J Edwards; E Elliott; R J L Elliott; C A Ellis; D J Evans; D J Eveson; J J Eyers; R Faltermeier; J C Faria; A C Faruk; A C Fearon; K-T Fehilly; M A Fell; A L Ferdinando; L M Fitzpatrick; T Folynie; S L Ford; C A P Fortescue; J E Frischmann; L J Fulda; I Gale-Brown; S H Garnett; E E Gash; T J P Gee; A S Ghattaura; M T Gilbert; M L Goh; I Gonzalez Gomez; J A Goode; A P D *Gorman; B H* Gorrie; Z C Graham; N J Greaves; D B Green; S Guglani; A K Guyon; L J Gwilliam; A M Hall; H L Hall; T Hallas; M B Halliwell; J M Handy; P M Hanshaw; S K Harbour; T J Harding; R K L Harries; C G S Harris; D A Harris; D J A E Harris; S J Harris; V L Harris; J E Harrison; S Haywood; S J Heap; M K Hegarty; Z M Henney; P D Hill; I Y W Ho; D M Hogan; R C A Holford; K E Homer; G R Hotton; L J Howard; R C Hughes; A M Humphreys; C N Hutchings; D M C Hutton; G R Hyde; K Z Irwin; A L *Jefferies; G S Jefferyes; M D Jefford;* E J Jenkins; R H Jetha; S Jinah; S E Johnson; M K W Johnston; C R Jones; T Jones; V J Jones; S Jordan; R Kanegaonkar; T Kara; F-Z A Kassam; S Kawashima; T P Kerr; D A Kettle; T C King; A L Kingsbury; A Kiri; D K Knott; V C Kosowsky; A Kouzni; A J Kovalic; N Koyama; J E M Lane; D L Lankstead; M T Larkin; S Y Latif; K H Lawden; A R Lawrence; D S Lawton; D L Leach; R Ledingham; J Lee; Y L Lee; J A A Lennon; S T Leung; H Levi; L R Lloyd-Smith; W P Lok; A F Loughran; H S Lundberg; W T R Lyons; J H Maccabe; J Machin; L J Mackenzie; K C Maguire; Z Mahloudji; M P Majurey; R Malik; A S Martin; V A Martin; R B Masefield; N Massarek; A N Matthew; G M R Maxwell; M McCorry; S M McDald; C R McDonald; D J McKeon; F J McLellan; C N Melikian; T M Merle; L C Michaels; J E Miles; K Mitchell; S V P Mitcham; T S L Mitchiner; P R Mitter; J Moat; I K Moonsle; W A Morgan; H J Moriarty; V Mortimer; D C Moulton; I A Mughal; Z Mukhtar; C H Muncaster; J T S *Murray; S K Nachshen; S S D Naga;* M Nejad; M W Nicolson; P C Nirmaler; A S Novitt; E J Nowicki; C M O'Brien; K O'Farrell; A J Oliphant; J J Ord; J Page; J A Parks; C O F Pase; K Paul; E Payne; L A Pearson; P J K Pearson; J J Penfold; H Perryman; R B Phillips; M Pickard; D E Picker; E K Pilling; C A Pine; A Plant; D I G Pocock; M J Pollard; S G Powell; R G Prasad; N J Price; A J Pstrides; E C Purslow; M S Qureshi; S A Rackstraw; A Rahman; C E Ramponi; S C Rawlinson; D C W Reynolds; N J Richard; J M Richards; T Richards; J H Richardson; E S Ridgway; A G Robbins; H T Roberts; J M Robson; A-M J Roberson; G Romano; J S Rooprai; M Rose; J L Rowbury; A M Rumble; L K Ryan; N Said; J D Saipe; N A K Saleem; H C Saif; D A Salisbury; L Sarner; K S Scharpen-Von Heussen; P R Sen; S Shah; P D Sheard; J M Sherwood; W J Sherwood; A G Shires; F A Shirley; K A Short; J N Shorter; S M Siedlecka; C L Simpson; A C Sinanan; S Singh; H M Single; F A Sklera; S Sooch; G H W Sparrow; L N Sproats; P S Squires; A W Steel; C A Stephens; A A B Sterne; M Stevens; P R Stevens; J R Stilgoe; S P Stockill; A J Stranack; J A Stratford; K V Suenson Taylor; B J Sullivan; A C Sutcliffe; J C Swannell; T A Szyszko; H Tabe Tambetabi; R J Tanna; P D T Tansley; M Taylor; M H Taylor-Restell; H Teoh; G Thackstone; M Thomson; J C Thornton; D M Tierney; E L Tonks; M E Tooze; A Townsend; J Townshend; J S Tucker; J M Tully; D R Turner; J Turner; B L Vale; D L Van Der Meulen; A F Van Veen; A D Vass; V J Venning; E Wachsmuth; T A J Wagstaff; M Wahab; K J Waite; M Walker; H C Wallace; C A Ward; S L Ward; T P Ward; A M Warrington; T C Waters; R E Watt; D C Waynforth; T Weaver; A L Weekes; D Wells; S C West; A J Weston; G R Weston; P J Whitecross; R M Wilkinson; E J Willer; D G A Williams; I Williams; J L Williams; L P Williamson; D Willis; M J Willsmore; M J Wise; E M Witherow; E M Wood; S M Wood; P C Workman; F C Worsley; G Zafarana
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Cautious optimism stirs unit trust offers



Right time: George Grieg expects good returns from Framlington's global emerging market fund



Eastern hope: Simon Walters of Save & Prosper looks to China



Europe fan: Fidelity's Mary Blair awaits single market impact

Helen Pridham says unit trust companies expect renewed interest in equity investment in the New Year. With interest rates low, the difference between returns on building society accounts and yields on shares has narrowed considerably

THE yield on the FT All-share index is currently about 4.4 per cent, which is not much less than the basic 4.75 per cent that the Halifax Building Society now pays on its instant access account.

But with shares, investors risk losing money, though if they are lucky and choose the right ones the rewards can be significant. Investing in shares through unit trusts helps to reduce the risk and investors who put money into the right ones, say, five years ago have seen their holdings treble in value.

So which unit trusts do the managers themselves think will be the right ones for 1993? Will a reviving economy push the UK stock market to new heights or will the single European market boost the flagging fortunes of the European trusts?

Paddy Linaker, managing director of M&G, Britain's oldest unit trust group, favours UK funds. He admits: "There may be an element of wishful thinking but we see definite signs of the beginning of an economic recovery, so I would go for a recovery or smaller companies fund. Smaller companies' shares have had a dreadful time but these companies are now benefiting from lower interest rates. I am optimistic that their shares will outperform those of larger companies in 1993."

His view is shared by Nigel Legge, sales and marketing director at James Capel Unit Trust Management, which currently has one of the best long-term performance records in the industry, according to performance analysts Planned Savings Data Services. He believes his company's Trixie fund will do particularly well during 1993. "This fund tracks the James Capel smaller-companies index and is in a good position to reflect an upturn in the economy. Because it contains a wide range of shares — about 250 of the constituent shares in the index — it spreads the risk further than conventional small-company funds which invest in 50 to 60 shares."

Also optimistic about the UK stockmarket is Clive Boothman, managing director of Schroder Unit Trusts . He says: "We believe there are some well-managed industrial companies which will benefit from the gradual recovery we expect to see in 1993. I would therefore expect our UK Enterprise fund, which is an aggressively managed, recovery-type fund, to perform well during the year."

Looking to Europe, few investment managers appear to see the advent of the single market as having a decisive effect on European stock markets during the coming year. However, Mr Legge says James Capel is increasing its investments in Europe and so is Martyn Arbib, who runs Perpetual Unit Trust Management. Perpetual's American Smaller Companies fund has recently been leading the unit trust performance tables and Mr Arbib believes what happened in America will happen in Europe. He says: "The easing of monetary policy and lower interest rates in Germany will lead to higher stockmarkets. The same trend will be seen in Japan."

The largest unit trust investing in Europe is Fidelity's £420m fund. Four years ago the company also set up a special 1992 European Opportunities fund. Mary Blair, executive director at Fidelity, says: "We still like Europe and believe the single market will have an important impact, but we do not expect any dramatic upturn in European markets. We also feel cautious about Europe because of the increased currency risk."

Fidelity's view is that South East Asian stockmarkets, in Hong Kong and countries such as Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia, will perform best in 1993. Mary Blair points out: "Economic growth in the region is expected to be 8-10 per cent next year and an added advantage is that by investing in the area you gain exposure to the dollar which we also believe will rise during 1993."

Simon Walters, investment director at Save & Prosper, agrees. He predicts that its Eastern Discovery unit trust, which invests both in the smaller economies of the Pacific region and Japan, will be a winner.

"In Japan, we believe the profit cycle should turn positive in the second half of the year. China is still growing strongly and the other countries around the Pacific are also generating their own autonomous growth through infrastructure spending."

Framlington Unit Trust Management is spreading its net even wider. It is launching a global emerging markets fund which will invest in Latin America and Europe as well as the Far East. George Greig, investment director, says: "We believe the time is right to invest in these areas and their stockmarkets should provide some good returns."

While David Rosier of Mercury shares the view that economic growth will be highest in emerging economies such as the Pacific area, he believes investors are likely to get much the same return from an international bond fund without the potential volatility. "These funds will benefit as interest rates come down in Europe," he says. Over the last year, Mercury's Global Bond fund has achieved gains of 20 per cent.

Investors in UK income funds should not expect any increase in income during 1993 despite recovery hopes, fund managers say. Companies are still cutting their dividends and Mr Rosier points out: "When higher earnings come through, the first action of many companies will be to repair their balance sheets. Profits growth is likely to be muted."

Mr Linaker of M&G says: "Our objective is to maintain income payments on our funds but we cannot say categorically we won't ever make cuts. As there is a strong element of recovery in our income funds, we do expect them to do well on a two-year view."

It is sometimes argued that investing in the worst-performing unit trust at the end of each year brings the best results during the next year. Worst performers in 1992 have been property share and gold trusts. However, gold seems to have lost its lustre now inflation is low. It did not even react to the European currency turmoil.

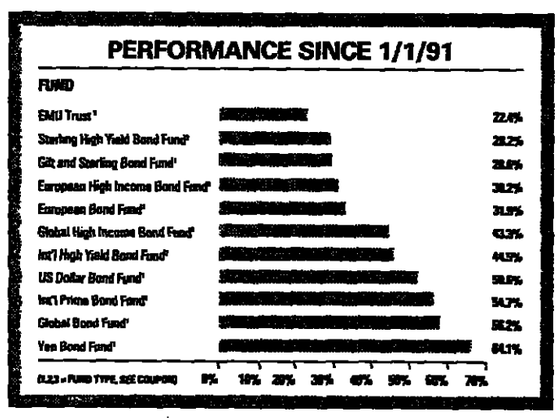
Managers of Capital House's property shares fund believe the sector will take some time to bounce back. GRE is even more pessimistic. It closed its property shares unit trust at the end of November.

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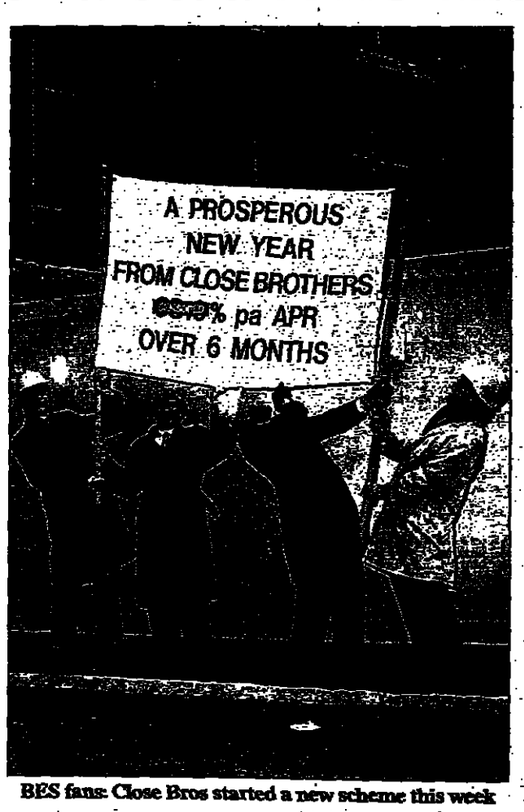
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Last-minute rush as BES deadline nears

Liz Dolan explains why property schemes have now become very popular



BES fans: Close Bros started a new scheme this week

MONEY is pouring into Business Expansion Schemes as investors rush to grab as much tax relief as possible before the government kills the golden BES goose at the end of 1993.

An estimated £200 million has already been invested since the beginning of this financial year — more than twice as much as the £85 million attracted during the whole of the previous tax year — and industry commentators predict that at least another £100 million will have been collected by April.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave notice in the March Budget that Business Expansion Schemes schemes would be abolished at the end of 1993.

The recent surge in investment into the schemes is thought to be due to both this deadline, and to the invention of what are called guaranteed assured tenancy schemes.

These property-based schemes offer "guarantees" of substantial returns, backed by undertakings by institutions like banks or housing associations to buy back the properties from the Business Expansion Scheme companies at the end of a five-year term at a guaranteed minimum price.

A spokesman for *BESt Investment* magazine calculates that all but £15 million of this year's Business Expansion Schemes takings were invested in guaranteed schemes.

"No one's interested in any schemes that haven't got an assured exit anymore," the spokesman said.

Unless the government steps in to close what has effectively become a tax loophole, the Business Expansion Scheme industry is expected to pump out an unprecedented number of such schemes before the December 1993 deadline.

The *BESt Investment* spokesman added: "The government may decide to outlaw certain schemes, in view of the amount of money that they are attracting."

It could be argued that they did not comply with the spirit of Business Expansion Scheme legislation, firstly because no on-going trading business was created and, secondly, because investors were not subjected to the sort of risk that the Business Expansion Scheme tax relief was intended to offset.

"At the moment, it's just a merry go round, with the Inland Revenue pouring money in at the top. A scheme is devised, a bank is found to back it, properties are purchased and rented out. Then, at the end of the five years, the assets are sold and the money finds its way back to the original investors, all topped up by Inland Revenue relief," said the *BESt Investment* spokesman.

A recent refinement to the original assured schemes is attracting even more investors. This involves a "loan back" option, which allows investors to sell their shares back to the bank after, say, one year.

The bank pays something like 74p for each share that originally cost £1. Higher rate tax payers can then claim an additional 40p of every £1 initially invested back from the Inland Revenue, thus making a total return of about 20 per cent on one year's investment. Equivalent benefit for standard rate tax payers are too low to make this option worthwile.

One such scheme is Close Brothers' BESSA Plus, launched this week. Each of two BESSA Plus companies created will acquire repossessed residential properties from Hill Samuel Mortgage Services, which will be let under assured tenancy leases.

The companies can require Hill Samuel Mortgage Services to repurchase all the residential properties at a price that provides investors with £1.08 a share. Investors can choose either to stay in the scheme for the whole five years, or to take out a non-status, non-recourse, fixed rate loan after six months. The amount which can be borrowed as a percentage of initial investment is 72 per cent.

Close Brothers says that, assuming a delay of seven months before receiving tax relief, a loan after six months produces an annualised equivalent net return of 24 per cent (40 per cent gross). The amount of profit actually made by the investor depends very much on when reclaimed tax is actually paid. The Household Mortgage Corporation also has a scheme waiting to be launched.

Although such schemes are described in popular parlance as "guaranteed", the underlying promise of a repay minimum return is only as strong as the company that makes it.

Concern was expressed early last year about the ability of some housing associations to honour their promises. The Housing Corporation, which regulates the activities of Britain's 2,300 registered associations, gave a warning in February that they could not rely on being able to get a housing association grant to buy back properties.

Business Expansion Schemes were introduced in 1983 to provide tax relief for new equity investment in unquoted trading companies.

The scheme was extended in 1988 to cover investment in companies letting properties in assured tenancies. Investors qualify for income tax relief at their highest rate on investments of up to £40,000 a year in qualifying companies.

Relief is generally given for the tax year in which the shares are issued, although it is possible in the case of investments made after April 5, 1987 to carry relief back to the previous tax year. Shares issued after 18 March 1986 are free from capital gains tax on first sale after the five years are completed.

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1993

Listen to customers for a change



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

Customers can no longer be taken for granted. That was the lesson of 1992 that should be put to good use this year. The little tricks to turn an extra penny or to secure a sale that should not be made, are giving the financial services sector a bad name.

Building societies need to come clean. They are in business to make profits. This became clear when the most mutual of them all, the Halifax, decided to impose charges on small savers last year. None of the others have followed but Nationwide, which led the way in paying interest on current accounts, has started to pick and choose who is allowed to open a FlexAccount. The second largest society will also remember 1992 as the year it was found guilty by the building society ombudsman of disadvantaging savers in an obsolete account.

Others go one step further and attract savers with super guaranteed rates that are fixed for only a few weeks before becoming variable, with savers trapped in the accounts for up to two years. Customers must beware, but they have not been used to the slick tricks of back street operators from the building societies.

Societies founded to help people buy homes using the savings of the masses now seem more interested in selling expensive loans secured on homes to buy fripperies with. First time buyers are not to be encouraged but priced out of the market while the better off will get cheaper loans. Savers have their rates cut quickly while borrowers have to wait months for a reduction.

Meanwhile there is good news for mortgage lenders. Insurance premiums have risen substantially for their borrowers' compulsory building insurance. It means more commission for the lenders.

The risk is assessed according to post code. It is too blunt a method of charging. Some insurers agree as they rub their hands at the prospect of higher premiums from everybody except a few Highland crofters. Not that suffering damage is enough to gain compensation any more. Delays in paying out on policies appear to be the norm for an industry that once prided itself on responding to disasters quickly.

The insurance ombudsman has helped thousands but is being swamped by complaints about refusals to pay out. "Not our fault" say the insurers, "we are having to spend too much time weeding out cheats".

They have been remiss in locating cheats among their own sales forces. Fines by the regulators have shown that words such as "churn" should not yet be removed from the language. Advising customers to cancel one insurance policy and take out another that earns the salesman a fat commission was outlawed more than four years ago in the Financial Services Act but it is still alive and strong.

The surrender levels for long term insurance policies are too high. Lip service has been paid in the last 12 months to better selling techniques. This has been largely in response to the threat of companies having to bear more of the cost of failed sales. Currently the customer is the biggest loser. The salesman can be pursued through the courts for a return of commission and the insurers also lose as the main costs of a policy are at the outset.

Too few investors realise how little goes into their investment pot for pensions or long-term insurance policies in the first year or so when commission and other costs are collected. Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of fair trading, will have the chance to change this early next year when he tells the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much information investors should be given before they sign on the dotted line.

The nub of the argument is whether the commission paid to salesmen has an influence on the advice that is given. While it is patently obvious in a car showroom that the salesman who persuades a customer to buy the luxury model rather than the basic one will earn more commission, it is a lot less obvious how much is earned from financial products or what is in the customer's interest.

Banks have alienated large numbers of their customers with their high-handed ways. There are, however, signs that they are beginning to listen to some of the things their customers say. Two have introduced prenotification of charges for personal customers. A third has done so for small business customers and is looking at the question for other customers. A year ago it was ruled out as impossibly expensive when the banks launched their code of practice.

That expense will in the end be borne by the customers when charges begin to be levied again on personal customers who remain in credit. If the banks expect to make windfall profits by introducing new charges for many and hardly reducing the existing costs for the few who pay now, they will have to answer to their customers.

Peps come of age as an investment vehicle

BY SARA MCCONNELL



MOST potential personal equity plan investors let the New Year pass without rushing out to take advantage of their Pep allowances. The rush comes later, as the April end of the tax year approaches and people realise they will not be able to use up their allowances in the next tax year.

Peps are six years old today. They were born as part of the government's policy of encouraging investment in British companies. Last year saw many improvements in the plans. Since March, their structure has been vastly simplified; investors can now hold the whole of their Pep allowances in unit or investment trusts, instead of having to keep a proportion in equities.

Some companies have started to reduce initial charges to make Peps more attractive to small investors, who frequently find that any tax-free gain is eaten up in charges. An investor can put up to £6,000 in a general Pep, and £3,000 in a plan investing in the shares of a single company, in each tax year. Any income and capital gain is tax-free. Allowances cannot be carried forward.

Save & Prosper is trying to stem the end-of-tax-year rush with a special New Year offer of reduced charges. Anyone putting at least £4,000 into a Managed Portfolio Plan, or Dealing Pep, between January 1 and January 30 will not have to pay the normal 1.5 per cent initial charge. This will save more than £100 in charges, the company said. There is also a 2 per cent reduction in the 5.5 per cent initial charge on the company's unit trust Pep for those investing £4,000 or more. There is a £120 saving on charges if the maximum £6,000 is invested.

Since Peps were introduced, investors putting in the maximum each year could have invested £31,200 in the plans. If that money had been invested in Save & Prosper's Managed Portfolio Pep, it would have turned into £43,969.44, a tax-free gain of £12,325.73.

Ken Emery, director of unit trusts and Peps at Save & Prosper, said the normal end-of-tax-year flurry of activity meant some investors could miss out on using up their allowance in the right tax year. The company will review the success of the reduced charges offer and consider whether to follow some of its competitors and cut charges to the bone.

Several companies broke ranks this year and cut Pep charges. They included Fidelity, Gartmore, Murray Johnstone and Scottish Equitable. Fidelity was the first to move, cutting its initial charge in half, from 5.25 to 2 per cent, last June. Scottish Equitable started charging a flat fee of £45 instead of taking a percentage of the investment in charges. Flat fees benefit those putting in the maximum. Instead of front-end charges, companies impose early withdrawal penalties in plans' first years. Investors can avoid these by seeing Peps as long-term investments.

Judy Delaforce, Fidelity's product development manager, said investment in Peps had almost doubled in the month after the cut, compared with the same month the previous year. But *Best Pep Investment*, a specialist magazine, questioned whether cuts in charges had much effect on the overall flow of funds into companies in the longer term.

Cuts in charges came on top of the Chancellor's Budget announcement in March that Peps investing only in unit trusts would be allowed. More than a million accounts, with a total value of £2.4 billion, had been opened by July, in the first quarter since the change, according to the Unit Trust Association. Unit trust Peps have proved more popular than direct equity Peps, partly because they spread risk. Several companies have even told their investors they *must* go into unit-trust-only Peps.

Legal & General has responded in a different way to investors' fears about risking money in the equity markets. It has introduced a plan that guarantees investors their money back after five years. L&G has cut initial charges to 3 per cent on all plans except its Guaranteed Pep, which will have a front-end charge of 5.5 per cent; the difference is used to buy an L&G insurance policy. This guarantees no loss on the investment over five years. The plan invests in the company's UK Recovery Trust.

The government has resisted other attempts to accommodate renewed public enthusiasm for lower-risk gilt and bond funds in Peps. Just before Christmas, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury, said the rules would be changed so that such funds were no longer "non-qualifying".

Non-qualifying trusts are so called because they do not hold more than half of their assets in UK equities; investors can hold up to £1,500 of their Pep allowances in them.

Mr Dorrell said: "Peps were introduced to encourage people to invest in shares ... From April 1993, Pep subscriptions to a non-qualifying unit or investment trust can be made only if the trust holds at least half of its assets in ordinary shares."

Since Peps started six years ago, people could have invested £31,200. In one it could have made £12,325

Tessas in favour as benefits make up for shrinking market returns

SAVERS looking in dismay at the miserable rates being paid on bank and building society deposit accounts should look again at Tessas — tax-exempt special savings accounts (Sara McConnell writes).

These accounts, which are two years old today, are probably one of the best opportunities for taxpayers to earn a good rate on deposits, although the majority of rates are variable and have almost halved in the last year.

Interest on Tessa accounts is paid gross as long as savers play by the rules. They are allowed one Tessa at a time into which they can invest a maximum of £9,000 over five years. If they do not touch the capital in that period, interest is paid tax-free. Up to £3,000 can be invested in the first year, £1,800 in each of the next three years and £600 in the final year.

Building societies and banks say that Tessas have been popular, particularly with those depositing lump sums. Depending on the way the account is structured, most people do not have to make the maximum deposit every year or pay it all in one go.

Taxpayers who are prepared to leave their capital untouched for five years will immediately benefit from at least an extra 33 per cent return because they will get interest paid gross. The Tessa tax break is even more valuable to higher-rate taxpayers. Savers can take the net interest earned on their investment without losing their tax break.

The best variable rates on offer still come from the smaller societies, with the National Counties Building Society of Epsom, Surrey, paying 9.6 per cent gross. But this is likely to fall any day, to reflect the latest cuts in interest rates. Cheshire Building Society, which pays 8.05 per cent, guarantees that its Tessa rate will be linked to the mortgage rate. This means Tessa investors should not suffer if the society widens the margins between its savings and lending rates.

Save & Prosper, one of the only providers to offer a guaranteed rate, has been paying 9.25 per cent including a 1 per cent bonus since the beginning of 1992. Anyone putting in the maximum £4,800 two years ago and leaving it there would have had a balance of £5,578 at the end of October.

However, even those who cannot wait five years to withdraw some of their money and so lose their tax break may find they get a better net rate than they would on an ordinary instant-access or 90-day account. Some building societies and banks, including the Halifax and the Abbey National, the two largest players, will pay a rate net of the current Tessa gross payment to savers who take out some of their investment.

The Halifax is paying 7.5 per cent gross on Tessas. Investors who opened a Tessa as soon as they could on January 2 1990 and who have so far put in the maximum £4,800, would now have £5,836. This includes £163 in bonuses, bringing the interest rate up to 8.27 per cent. The Halifax pays a lump sum bonus on maturity as well as a lump sum bonus of £100 every year for savers making the maximum investment.

Those who wanted to take some of their savings out would still get 5.62 per cent on their remaining savings in the Tessa. This compares well with a net rate of at most 3.8 per cent in a 90-day notice account and 3.75 per cent on an instant-access account. This would be paid on balances of £4,800.

Abbey National is also paying 7.5 per cent on its Tessa accounts and would pay the net of this, 5.62 per cent, on savings remaining. The bank needs 28 days' notice of a withdrawal.

Not all banks and building societies will pay interest on savings remaining if some of the capital is taken out. Cheltenham & Gloucester says that if any of the capital investment in a Maxi-Tessa or a Flexi-Tessa is withdrawn, savers would not earn any interest on the amount that is left.

A season to savour National Savings

NATIONAL Savings took on a new lease of life this year, as building society returns followed the fall in interest rates. For the first time, savers who had previously scorned National Savings plans took a second look (Sara McConnell writes).

Savers benefit from National Savings when the Treasury needs money and sets rates high. The Chancellor announced in the last Budget that the public sector borrowing requirement was £28 billion in 1992-3. This was revised upwards in the autumn statement to £44 billion in 1993-4. The government is likely to need more money rather than less in the coming years, all good news for savers.

But National Savings rates are subject to political pressure, as savers discovered last summer. A noticeable absentee in National Savings' present range of accounts is the short-lived FIRST Option Bond. That was introduced in July 1 last year, paying a guaranteed 7.75 per cent over one year after basic rate tax was deducted. It was the first National Savings product to be developed specially for basic-rate taxpayers and, perhaps predictably, it put building societies' noses out of joint because of its generous rate.

The bond attracted £112 million in the first eight working days after its launch. But those who did not move fast to invest lost out. Two weeks after the launch, the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society put up its mortgage rate by 0.24 per cent, blaming its action on competition from National Savings. The government reacted by cutting the rate on the FIRST Option bond to 7.25 for new savers and later 6.5 per cent after basic rate tax.

Another edition of the bond is expected to appear in the first part of this year but its rate is likely to be in line with what building societies are paying, given the political upset last time. Despite this, National Savings is still paying good rates on many products, including fixed-interest and index-linked savings certificates. These also have the advantage that they pay interest tax free. Building society interest is paid net of basic rate tax to taxpayers.

Both the sixth issue index-linked certificates and the 40th issue fixed-interest certificates are still paying attractive rates compared with many building society accounts. The sixth issue index-linked certificates went on sale on December 7 and will pay 3.25 per cent a year compound on top of inflation to savers holding on to the certificates for five years.

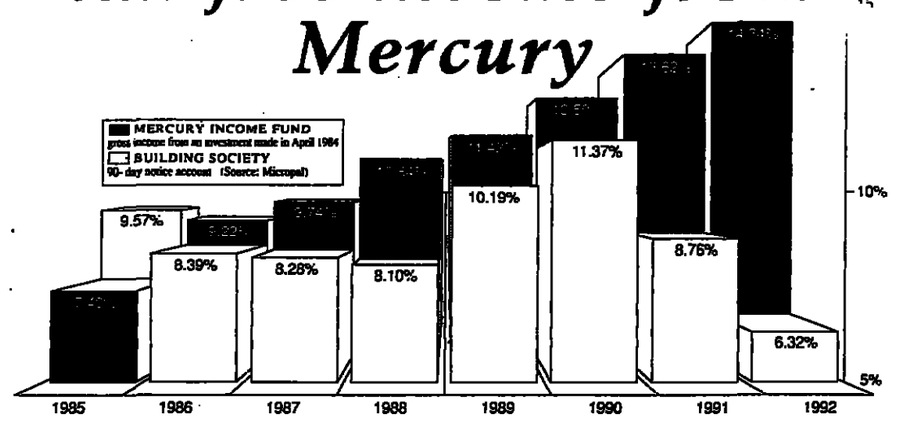
This looks mean compared with the 4.5 per cent on top of inflation offered by the fifth issue on sale at the beginning of the year but at today's inflation rate of three per cent, the new sixth issue would still give a return of 6.25 per cent tax free guaranteed. The maximum holding of new certificates is £5,000 and up to £10,000 can be reinvested from matured certificates.

The 40th issue of fixed interest savings certificates is paying a tax-free rate of 5.75 per cent compound to those who hold them for a full five years. At the beginning of the year, the 36th issue was paying 8.5 per cent tax free. Each year, the rate of interest earned on the certificates increases so the longer they are held the better the return. Again, the maximum holding of new certificates is £5,000 but a further £10,000 of matured certificates can also be reinvested.

National Savings accounts that pay a guaranteed rate of interest gross include capital bonds and income bonds. Series G of Capital Bonds pays a gross return equal to 7.75 per cent compound if they are held for five years.

The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum total holding in all series of Capital Bonds, excluding holdings of Series A is £100,000. Income bonds pay income equivalent to 7 per cent a year gross. Savers can put in a minimum of £2,000 and a maximum of £50,000.

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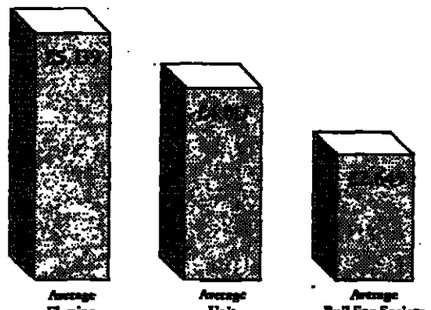
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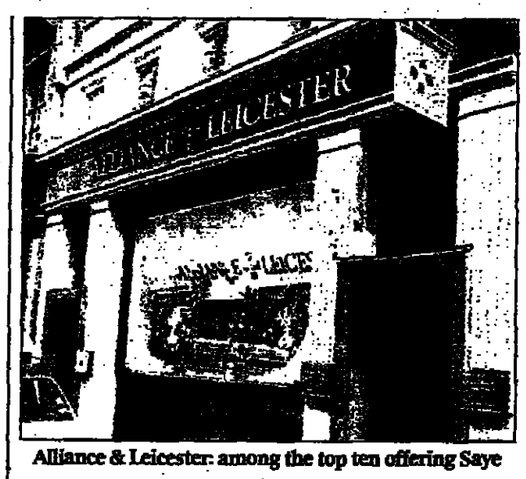
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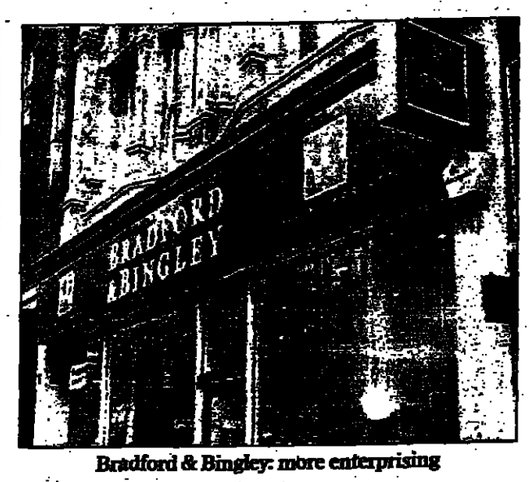
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Halifax: another 15 per cent sign up

Saye — the saviour of the small saver

BY HELEN PRIDHAM

LOWER interest rates have hit small savers particularly hard. But there is one building society account especially designed for smaller savers that has not been subject to a rate change for some time and is now looking increasingly attractive.

Save-As-You-Earn (Saye) accounts are currently offering a fixed return over five years equivalent to 8.3 per cent per annum — and they are tax free.

Saye accounts were a forerunner of Tessas (tax exempt special savings accounts). However, unlike Tessas where building societies and banks are left to set their own terms within certain limits, Saye building society accounts all run on exactly the same lines. (They should not be confused with the Saye share option scheme which some companies run for employees).

Up to £20 a month can be saved in a Saye account for five years. At the end of five years there is a tax-free bonus equal to 14 months' savings. This is equivalent to a fixed rate of 8.3 per cent per annum.

If the money is invested for another two years, making no further savings, there is another 14 months' tax-free bonus, which brings the equivalent rate up to 8.62 per cent.

Money can be withdrawn early from a Saye scheme but no interest will be paid if this is done during the first year. Thereafter, the rate is 6 per cent tax free, though if a withdrawal is due to the death of the account holder then the rate is 8 per cent tax free. The accounts are open to anyone aged 16 or over. These terms have remained the same since 1982.

When Saye was first launched in October 1969, most building societies offered the scheme. But the number has shrunk considerably over the years and there are now only about 15 societies which run one. Among the top ten, those which offer an Saye account are the Alliance & Leicester, Bradford & Bingley, Bristol & West and the Halifax. Smaller societies with a scheme include the Cambridge, Catholic, Cheshire, Chorley & District, Earl Shilton, Furness, Harpenden, North of England, Scottish Stafford Railway and Standard. Most societies do little to market their Saye accounts because of the small amounts involved. Nevertheless the Halifax has more than half a million accountholders on its books and has noted a 15 per cent increase in accounts being opened over the past three months compared with the previous three months period.

The Bradford & Bingley has been somewhat more enterprising than others and offers a special lump sum feeder account linked to its Saye scheme. This account accepts amounts of £600, £900 or £1,200 which are then used to fund the appropriate level of monthly Saye subscriptions.

The interest of the feeder account is guaranteed to be at least 5 per cent above the basic share rate. This gives a present rate of 6 per cent, which is competitive for the modest sums involved.

Unlike the SAYE account itself, the interest on the feeder scheme is taxable. The capital can be withdrawn from the feeder account at any time without penalty, though partial withdrawals are not permitted.

Another account designed for small savers which is once again looking attractive is the National Savings Ordinary Account. It accepts deposits of £10 and provides instant access. An added advantage is that the first £70 of interest earned is tax free. This is doubled to £140 for those with a joint account.

The account has a two-tier interest rate structure. From January 1 the rates will be 2.75 per cent on balances below £500 and 3.75 per cent for each month more is kept in the account.

However, National Savings has a strange rule that people must have an account open for a full calendar year in order to qualify for the higher rate. Interest is paid at the year-end. So those who want to qualify for the higher rate during 1993 had to open an account before the end of 1992.

These rates may seem very low in view of those we have enjoyed in recent years.

Nevertheless when it is considered that building societies such as the Halifax are now paying only 1 per cent gross on savings of less than £500, and 4.75 per cent on balances of £500-plus in instant access accounts, the National Savings Ordinary Account rates do not look so unattractive.

Taxpayers would need to earn gross rates of more than 3.67 per cent and 5 per cent respectively in order to earn £70 net interest elsewhere.



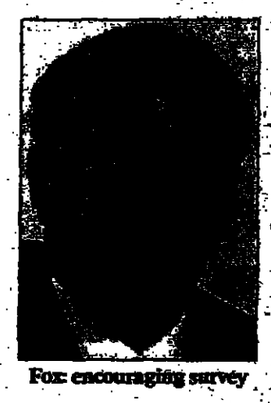
Bristol & West: staying faithful while others quit

Pearl finds investors' wisdom

INVESTORS had more confidence in the stock market in December than at any time in the past six months, according to a survey this week (Sara McConnell writes).

The Pearl Investors Confidence index, compiled by Gallup, has surveyed 2,000 investors each month since it was started, at a base level of 100, in March 1991. In December, the index stood at 86.9, computed with 82.5 in November, a 4.4 per cent increase. The index touched an annual peak of 91.8 in June.

Company directors and others in the highest socio-economic categories were most optimistic in December; 44 per cent of social class AB said they thought the stock market was "likely" or "very likely" to go up in the next six to 12 months. That compares with 36 per cent in November. Of the company directors surveyed, 57 per cent believed the stock market would advance, compared with 47 per cent in November. The previous high point of optimism was recorded last May, when 57 per cent of socio-economic class AB and 62 per cent of company directors believed the market would rise.



Fox: encouraging survey

Martin Fox, Pearl's general manager, marketing, described the 10 per cent increase in company directors' confidence as "particularly encouraging". He said: "Historically, movements in the confidence of company directors have preceded similar trends in other categories of respondents."

The index had closely mirrored the pattern of unit trusts' gross sales, which last month totalled £981 million, the highest since September 1991.

The number of people prepared to invest in personal equity plans (Peps) or tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) also rose to a 1992 high, the index showed. In December, 17 per cent of the investors questioned said they were "likely" or "very likely" to buy Tessas in the next year, up from 15 per cent in November. The number likely or very likely to buy Peps rose from 6 per cent in November to 8 per cent in December, while 18 per cent of investors were likely or very likely to buy shares in December, up from 12 per cent in November.

Planning ahead for the quiet life

BY SARA MCCONNELL

PLANNING ahead for retirement is the best way for people to make sure their finances are well organised, their health needs are provided for and the next 25 years or so of active life are fulfilling, according to the annual *Good Retirement Guide*.

Those about to retire should work out their likely financial position by drawing up several lists, says Rosemary Brown, the guide's author.

The first should list expected sources of income on retirement. These will include state basic and earnings related pension and other benefits from a personal or company pension. There may also be the proceeds from a life policy and from bank and building society deposits. A second list should detail unavoidable outgoings, such as food, heating, local taxes, clothes and insurance. A third should itemise normal additional spending including holidays and other luxuries.

Further lists should include options on ways to boost retirement income. These could include taking in lodgers, moving to a smaller property or releasing some equity under an annuity-based home income plan. A "spending now for saving later" scheme could include paying off credit agreements, paying off the mortgage or buying a new car. Any financial plans should allow for unknowns such as tax and inflation.

Retired people may find they have extra expenses. Heating and lighting bills are likely to be larger and they may also want to spend more on travel, holidays and hobbies. They will also lose perks from working, such as a company car. However, there are compensations such as discounts on travel, cinema and theatre tickets and cheaper car insurance for older people.

The Good Retirement Guide 1993 is published by Kogan Page, and costs £13.99

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in November 1992.

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.691	0.609	0.532	0.451	0.397
February	—	0.684	0.602	0.519	0.446	0.391
March	0.759	0.681	0.597	0.505	0.444	0.389
April	0.724	0.657	0.576	0.474	0.430	0.372
May	0.712	0.651	0.570	0.467	0.428	0.371
June	0.707	0.647	0.566	0.464	0.429	0.371
July	0.706	0.636	0.559	0.457	0.433	0.372
August	0.706	0.631	0.553	0.463	0.426	0.366
September	0.707	0.623	0.550	0.464	0.421	0.364
October	0.698	0.618	0.541	0.461	0.419	0.358
November	0.690	0.612	0.538	0.458	0.407	0.351
December	0.693	0.606	0.537	0.455	0.402	0.352

Month purchased	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
January	0.352	0.259	0.169	0.073	0.030
February	0.347	0.250	0.162	0.067	0.025
March	0.342	0.244	0.151	0.063	0.022
April	0.320	0.222	0.117	0.050	0.006
May	0.315	0.215	0.107	0.046	0.003
June	0.311	0.211	0.103	0.042	0.003
July	0.309	0.210	0.102	0.044	0.006
August	0.295	0.206	0.091	0.042	0.006
September	0.289	0.198	0.080	0.038	0.002
October	0.276	0.189	0.072	0.034	Nil
November	0.270	0.179	0.075	0.030	—
December	0.267	0.176	0.075	0.029	—

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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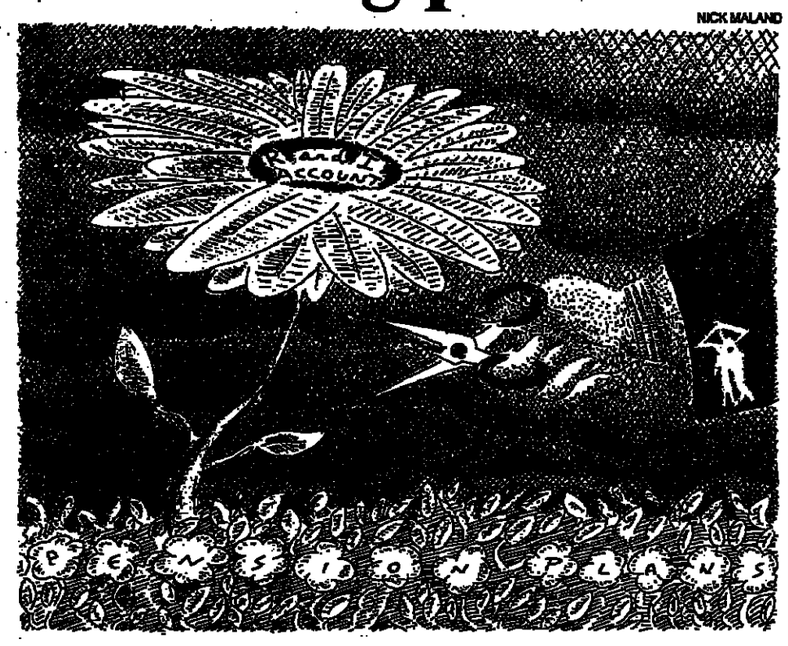
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Abbey has withdrawn its top-performing pension

Jill Insley explains why a scheme that has proved its worth has been closed

NICK MALAND



ABBEY National has withdrawn its top performing pension plan to make way for a share-based scheme.

The new plan will be very similar to the many pension policies which produced inferior results compared with those achieved by Abbey's deposit-based Retirement Investment account.

The Retirement Investment account was very straightforward. It simply harnessed the tax advantages of any pensions investment to a building society account. Investors could put in as much or as little as they wanted, whenever they wanted. The account was particularly suitable for those investors nearing retirement age who wanted a safe haven for their money.

The Retirement Investment account was criticised when launched as an inappropriate vehicle for long-term pensions investment. Critics argued that returns from shares in the long term far exceeded what could be expected from a deposit based account.

However, since the launch of personal pensions in 1988, Abbey National's Retirement Investment account has outperformed all the unit-linked share based plans reviewed by *Money Marketing Financial Product Review* last autumn.

If a man had paid £50 per month into a pension plan taken out on July 1, 1988, for retirement at the age of 65 on July 1, 1992, he would receive between £1,957 and £2,868 if investing with one of the 40 leading insurance and investment companies surveyed by *Money Marketing Financial Product Review*.

But if he had invested the same amount of money for the same period in the Retirement Investment account, he would have received £2,978.

This out-performance was the result of a combination of high interest rates and poor performance of the stock market through recession.

Since the Retirement Investment account has proved its worth over the last few years, it is perhaps surprising that the company has withdrawn it.

The withdrawal is a result of Abbey National's 1991 acquisition of Scottish Mutual, the life insurance group. Abbey National has used Scottish Mutual to create Abbey National Life, a new company which will be launched at the beginning of February.

This company will allow Abbey National to secure a higher profit margin on pensions than it could have earned on the simple deposit plan.

Abbey National says that as well as preventing a duplication of products in its range, the company has the best interests of its customers at heart when removing the Retirement Investment account.

Joy Payne, Abbey National's manager personal pensions, says that although the account has performed well over the last four years, growth over a longer period would be a very different story. "I would expect an equity based pension to outperform ours," she said.

She also claims that demand for the product was low, with about 50,000 customers investing in the Retirement Investment account compared with a total of 5 million personal pension plan holders.

"We did have faith in the product when it was launched, but if people do not want to buy it then we are not going to continue with it," she said. The account is still running for existing investors, but is closed to new investors.

Bradford & Bingley Building Society and Bristol & West Building Society, which also offered deposit-based pensions, withdrew from the market in 1990, also blaming lack of demand.

NatWest loses independence to launch tied advice service

TODAY is the last day that investors can get independent financial advice from National Westminster Bank branches. From Monday, the bank will be the tied agent of NatWest Life, a new company formed with Clerical Medical (Lindsay Cook, Money Editor, writes).

The largest bank is the last of the high street giants to give up its independence. Under the Financial Services Act, banks, building societies and other sellers of financial services had to choose whether to be independent and offer the investment products of all companies, or be tied and offer the products of one company.

In September 1987 — a few months before the Act was implemented — NatWest decided it would be independent and sold its unit trust company to the then MIM Britannia, now Invesco MIM, for a record price. For three years it was alone among the Big Four banks, offering independent financial advice and proclaimed this as its unique selling point. It has been easily the largest independent financial adviser, offering a branch in every high street.

Initially, most of the large building societies were also independent but first of all Abbey National, which is now a bank, and then Cheltenham & Gloucester, tied. Abbey National tied to Friends Provident and C & G to Legal & General. Within months of the C & G tie, the Halifax had linked to Standard Life and only Bradford & Bingley, with 280 branches, remained independent among the top ten building societies. Yorkshire Building Society, with 134 branches, is also unfettered.

NatWest used Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, and Kenny Dalglish, the manager of Blackburn Rovers football club, among others, to promote its independent stance.

In September 1991 NatWest announced that it was setting up NatWest Life and that its branches would be tied to the new life company. The company which begins underwriting next week is 92.5 per cent owned by NatWest. Clerical Medical owns the remaining stake and is one of the six main companies that NatWest has placed business with as an independant.



Team leader: NatWest Life chief Lawrence Churchill

Headed by Lawrence Churchill, NatWest Life, will have a team of 1,400 working in the bank's 2,700 branches along with 400 personal finance planning managers. This means that larger branches will have resident advisers and smaller ones will be able to arrange appointments.

Those who want independent advice will be referred to NatWest Insurance Services which will maintain a separate field force of consultants. These will not be based in branches. Mr Churchill expects personal pensions to be the biggest sellers among the new company's products. It will also offer nine unit trusts, term assurance, whole of life policies, endowments for mortgages and savings and guaranteed growth bonds. It will later launch permanent health insurance and a bond linked to the FT-SE.

NatWest Life salesmen will all be equipped with laptop computers that will automatically check the information fed into the machines by the salesmen to ensure the right policy is recommended to customers, said Mr Churchill.

Salesmen will be paid a basic salary and will earn a bonus according to sales over three monthly periods rather than per policy. The bank spent millions of pounds on promoting its independence but felt in the end that customers did not value this unique selling point. Customers valued the NatWest name above independence so there was nothing to be lost and everything to be gained by being the manufacturer of life products and the seller.

Abbey National also announced in September 1991 that it was to set up a new life company. The former building society had bought Scottish Mutual for £285 million. In addition to Scottish Mutual continuing to market policies Abbey National Life will next month begin to sell policies through all of Abbey National's branches.

This will replace the current tie with Friends Provident and will mean that the only life insurance and investment products that can be sold through branches will be from Abbey National Life. Savings accounts are not investment products under the Financial Services Act but life policies such as endowment policies to support mortgages and pension plans are.

The BancAssurance companies — which provide and sell life assurance — like NatWest Life and Abbey National Life, have proved to be very profitable for those high street institutions which already have them, such as the Woolwich Building Society, Lloyds Bank and Britannia Building Society.

Building societies offer savers protection against rate cuts

BY SARA MCCONNELL

SAVERS are being encouraged to lock into new accounts offering guaranteed rates and bonuses as the New Year starts, protecting themselves against likely base rate cuts early in 1993.

In return for better rates, savers are usually expected to leave their money intact for at least 12 months. The Leeds Permanent building society, the fifth largest, is writing to 250,000 of its savers with balances of more than £10,000 in notice accounts to tell them about the Bonus Gold Account to be launched this Monday. The new account, which requires a minimum investment of £10,000, will pay a 0.25 per cent bonus every year provided no withdrawals are made. Savers will receive the bonus on the date of annual interest payment. Income can be paid monthly with no loss of bonus. Savers who need to make withdrawals will have to give 60 days' notice or lose 60 days' interest.

Savers with between £10,000 and £24,999 in a Bonus Gold account will earn 6.85 per cent gross, 5.14 per cent net including bonus. Those with between £25,000 and £49,999 will earn 7.5 per cent gross, 5.63 per cent net. Balances of £5,000 to £99,999 will earn 8 per cent gross, 6 per cent net while balances of £100,000 and over will earn 8.15 per cent gross, 6.11 per cent net. Those who want monthly income will earn slightly lower rates, with balances of £10,000 to £24,999 earning 6.66 per cent gross, 5 per cent net. The top rate for those getting monthly income will be 7.88 per cent gross, 5.91 per cent net on sums of £100,000 and over.

The Britannia building society is tempting savers with a two-year fixed rate bond at 7.55 per cent gross, 5.66 per cent net. The return will be guaranteed until January 1 1994. There is a minimum investment of £5,000 and a maximum of £500,000. Investors cannot add to their original investment in the bond but can open additional bonds up to the overall investment limit. Interest will be added to the capital balance when the account matures and this sum will then be automatically transferred to a Britannia High Interest account. Savers with at least £25,000 in National & Provincial's Investment Reserve account are now earning 0.25 per cent more, bringing their rate up to at least 8.25 per cent gross, 6.18 per cent net on balances of between £25,000 and £50,000. This rate includes a 1.5 per cent gross bonus if no withdrawals are made during a year. Withdrawals mean the loss of the bonus and require 90 days notice or the equivalent loss of interest.

Societies are also introducing new editions of guaranteed investment accounts in the New Year. The Yorkshire building society has launched the second issue of its five-year Share Index Plus account, whose growth is linked to the FTSE-100 share index. Investors are guaranteed to get their original investment back even if the stockmarket falls. If the FTSE-100 grows slowly, investors will still get back their original investment after five years plus 25 per cent. If the stockmarket is booming, they will get back their original investment plus 100 per cent of the rise in the FT-SE index after five years.

A discount of 1.75 per cent for the first 12 months on the standard variable mortgage rate of 8.55 per cent is being offered by the Lambeth building society.

From Monday, those needing loans of between £30,000 and £100,000 representing up to 90 per cent of the property's value will be able to borrow up to 3.25 times the higher of two incomes plus the lower income or 2.6 times the joint income.

Those wanting to borrow up to 95 per cent of the property's value will be able to borrow three times the higher income plus the lower income or 2.5 times a couple's joint income. Those borrowing 80 per cent or less of the property's value will qualify for a discount of 2.25 per cent of the standard rate for the first year and will be able to borrower three times the higher income plus the lower income or 2.5 times the joint income.

☐ The Britannia building society has launched a five-year fixed-rate mortgage at 8.75 per cent (an annual percentage rate of 9.3 per cent) until January 31 1998. The rate is available to new and existing borrowers. The society already has a two-year fixed rate of 7.5 per cent and a 10-year fixed rate of 9.99 per cent.

☐ Fleming Investment Trust Management is offering to sell TSB and Rolls-Royce shares for a flat fee of £7.50 and invest them in any of the company's 14 investment trusts. The flat fee applies if more than one person in a household combines to exchange their shares.

The offer applies between January 1 and 31. The company's normal 1 per cent charge (maximum £50) will apply on the purchase of shares in the investment trust.

☐ A European unit trust has been launched by Albert E. Sharp Fund Managers to coincide with the dismantling of trade barriers within the European community. The fund will aim to achieve long term capital growth in a diversified portfolio of European equities but will also invest in smaller markets and less well known European securites.

During the initial offer period which lasts until January 15, units will be offered at a fixed price of 105p per unit. the minimum investment is £1,000. There is an initial charge of 5 per cent (included with the 105p price and an annual management fee of 1.25 per cent.

☐ Mercury Asset Management is cutting upfront charges on its Income Fund personal equity plan and British Blue Chip personal equity plan by 1 per cent, to 4 per cent. It is also offering 600 free air miles to anyone investing the full £6,000 Pep allowance.

This would be enough to pay for a return flight to Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels or Jersey from almost anywhere in the United Kingdom, the company said.

The Income Fund and British Blue Chip fund are two of eight unit trusts eligible for inclusion in a Pep. The others are the European Growth Fund, the General Fund, the Recovery Fund, the UK Smaller Companies fund, the New Europe fund and the Mercury Portfolio.

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INTEREST RATES TABLES

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c:						
Typical	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	1.13	1.13	0.90	2,500-25,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	1.50	1.50	1.20	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	3.56	3.56	2.85	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	4.03	4.03	3.22	10,000-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland	4.41	4.41	3.53	10,000-no max	1 mth	0742 528655
" "	4.64	4.64	3.71	10,000-no max	3 mth	0742 528655
NatWest	4.22	4.22	3.38	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" "	4.03	4.03	3.22	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	4.86	5.10	4.08	2,500‡	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	2.63	2.63	2.10	2,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	0.38	0.38	0.30	500‡	none	071 626 6543
Citibank	5.40	5.54	4.43	2,000‡	none	0800 555884
Lloyds HICA	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000‡	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	2.05	2.05	1.65	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
NatWest Special Reserve	2.08	2.08	1.65	500‡	none	0800 200 400
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	2.25	2.25	1.80	2,000‡	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank HICA	2.06	2.06	1.65	2,000‡	none	071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	1.31	1.31	1.05	1+	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
Bristol & West	6.83	6.83	5.46	2,000 min	Postal	——
Bristol & West	6.90	6.90	5.52	25,000 min	Postal	——
Northern Rock	5.29	5.29	4.23	40,000 min	90 day	——
Leeds Permanent	5.44	5.44	4.35	25,000 min	90 day	——
Nationwide	5.63	5.63	4.50	50,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Bristol & West	6.90	6.90	5.52	25,000 min	Postal	——
Northern Rock	5.29	5.29	4.23	40,000 min	90 day	——
Birmingham Mid	5.96	5.96	4.77	50,000 min	60 day	——
Scarborough	8.75	8.75	8.40	50,000 min	90 day	——
Greenwich	7.50	7.50	6.00	50,000 min	1 year	——

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 071 404 5766 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c†	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	6.25	4.69	3.75	5-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	7.00	5.25	4.20	2,000-50,000	3 mth	0253 66151
First Opt Bond*	6.50	6.50	5.20	1,000-250,000		041-649-4555
40th Issue Cert*	6.75	6.75	6.75	100-5,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plan†	5.75	5.75	5.75	20-400/mth	14 day	091-386 4900
Children's Bond	7.85	7.85	7.85			
Gen Ed Rate†	3.75	3.75	3.75			
Capital Bond*	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-100,000	8 days	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Prosperity	5.90	5.90	5.02	25,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Prosperity	5.56	5.56	4.72	25,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Laurentian Life	6.70	6.70	4.02	50,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Financial Asa	6.20	6.20	5.27	5,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5766
Laurentian Life	7.00	7.00	5.95	50,000 min	5 yrs	for details

RATES		**HOLIDAY RATES**	£ buys
RPI (Nov 91-92)	+3.0%	Spanish Pesetas:	168.00
Bank Base Rate	7%	French Francs:	8.14
Personal Loan	26%	Greek Drachmas:	320.00
Credit Card	25 - 27%	Italian Lire:	2160.00

TESSA	CAR (%)	£3,000 val 1 year on	Transfer penalty	Minimum investment	Telephone number
Allied Trust	9.49	£3,284.70	£25+2mnths	notice £9,000	071 2639111
West Bromwich	9.00	£3,270.00	1mnths notice	+£25 £1	0625 613612
Beverley	9.00	£3,270.00	—	£1	0482 881510
Exeter Bank	8.77	£3,263.10	—	£250	0392 50635
National Count	8.75	£3,262.50	90days loss int	rst £3,000	0372 742211

‡ 2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less † Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates †Tax free *Interest taxable paid gross ‡Higher rates for larger sums**not on sale at the moment

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Norwich & Peterbro' 0733 371371	5.55	60K	80	after 3% discount to 1.9.93
National & Provin 0274 733444	7.25	40-59,999	80	after 1.25% discount to 1.1.94
Bradford & Bingley 0274 555555	7.30	60K	95	after 1.25% discount for 1 year
BANKS				
Bank of Ireland 0734 393393	5.99	30-150K	95	rate capped to 1.3.94
Barclays 0203 534994	7.34	60-600K	90	after 1.25% discount for first year

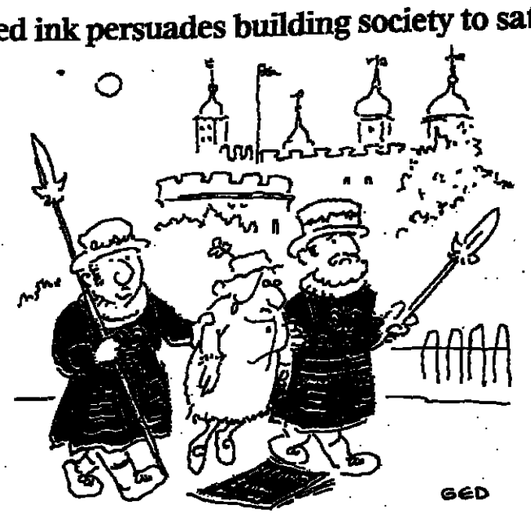
Figures supplied by Step'k Guides Ltd: Telephone 0753 880482.

Persistence and red ink persuades building society to satisfy customer

From Mrs Geraldine Munday

Sir, Recent articles and correspondence in *The Times* referring to income tax refunds, interested me in no small way. Last September I wished to avail myself of this mutual benefit. I was only too keen to relieve the tax collector of work pressures after April 5, 1993.

A most enjoyable visit to my tax office followed. Was it really the Chamber of Horrors — as reputed? or had I inadvertently wandered into the Ritz? — plush carpets, easy chairs, magazines — and — a book to record brickbats or compliments too! — and, to boot, a charming and delightful young lady to kindly help to advise me. I needed not to pinch myself! "Yes" — "I could have my refund," — and "soon" — "apply now".



On cloud nine, I went home, weaving dreams of saving versus spending my windfall. Lovely!

Next, a visit to my building society to outline my needs — a letter certifying interest and tax paid so far, on my monthly interest account from April 1992. Horrified faces! "You can't do that!" Persistence brought forth a stern young man from the inner sanctum, — with a frowned "can't be done". I insisted. Exchange of glances said "silly old faggot" — "we'll just have to stall her" — and "stonewall resistance". Finally they agreed to attend to the matter — by NOT attending to the matter!! and ignoring my request.

Eventually after waiting two weeks I decided to bypass them, and applied by letter to head office. Back came the reply giving me details I had NOT requested and referring to another account. I wrote again, clearly stating requirements. This time their reply gave me details of interest and tax but for 1991/2!!! A third letter from me putting required dates in red ink finally produced the goods. Whoopee!

The darling tax collector sent my cheque in about a week. It felt as though they had included a box of luscious chocolates!

Next triumphantly off to my building society — a frosty atmosphere — and alarmed facial expressions — said "Here she comes again" — I meekly offer my book and the Inland Revenue cheque saying (pleasantly I hope) "It *was* worthwhile to apply wasn't it?" — Frigid agreement — and as I exited I swear they firmly expected me to be seized at the door by two Yeomen of the Guard and hurtled into a van for the Tower.

Query — next year — dare I — *again*?

Yours faithfully,
GERALDINE MUNDAY,
137 Woodmill Lane,
Bitterne Park,
Southampton,
Hampshire.

Treasury rejects suggestion to improve Peps

From Mr A. C. Bennett

Sir, I refer to Mr Sorrell's letter (Weekend Money, December 19).

For calendar 1992. Total tax refunds credited to my Barclayshare Pep account exceed expenses by the stupendous sum of £63.84 and if higher rate tax is included my tax saving becomes £178.99.

The point is that the bulk of my tax-saving is swallowed by the bank or any other plan manager who I may appoint.

When Mr Major set up these schemes I am sure he intended that the taxpayer should benefit and not the institutions!

The situation could easily be rectified if the taxpayer were required to make his Pep investments in nominated accounts and the repayment could be given in the annual assessments against the relevant vouchers.

Such arrangements would eliminate the need for plan managers and would simplify the Revenue's position and avoid the constant stream of refund applications and consequent repayments which the Revenue has to deal with. I wrote along these lines to the Treasury and provoked a typical Civil Service reply that, [despite the obvious benefits] such restructuring of the scheme was not government policy.

Yours faithfully,
A. COLIN BENNETT,
7 St. Michael At Pleas,
Tombland, Norwich.

From Mr A. J. Lewis

Sir, I was concerned to read Mr A. A. Sorrell's letter.

Clearly, Mr Sorrell overlooked my letter (Weekend Money, February 2, 1991) in which I warned investors about Pep charges. My recommendation to invest in high-income investment trusts is even more relevant now — after the general fall in interest rates — than two years ago.

Fortunately, I followed my own advice, and my own Peps are looking very healthy.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. LEWIS,
38 Heatherley Road,
Camberley, Surrey.

Time to investigate final salary pensions

From Mr D. A. Scott

Sir, Companies which transfer employees from final salary schemes to money purchase plans (Switch From Final Salary Schemes Causes Concern, December 19) should be applauded for acting against the self-interest of their directors, and in favour of the majority of their workforce.

It is time there was an investigation into the extent to which final salary schemes benefit those at the top of the salary scale when they retire, at the expense of the ones lower down. At the time of retirement, it is the early premiums paid into a pension fund that contribute most to the eventual capital, and when the salaries of high-flyers grow many times faster than inflation, their pensions must drain the fund at the expense of the rest.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. SCOTT,
The Old School,
Hanley Castle,
Worcester.

Bank's stance on pin numbers supported

From Mr J. A. Greenbank

Sir, Many disinterested readers of Dr Drysdale's letter (Weekend Money, December 19) regarding pin numbers would more likely, I think, take the bank's view.

I know that on the few occasions when I have remembered my pin number wrongly, I have made several futile attempts at extracting money using variations of the correct number, only to be refused by the implacable machine. Surely most people write their pin number down somewhere?

Yours faithfully,
J. A. GREENBANK,
15 Hawkstone Avenue,
Guiseley, Leeds.

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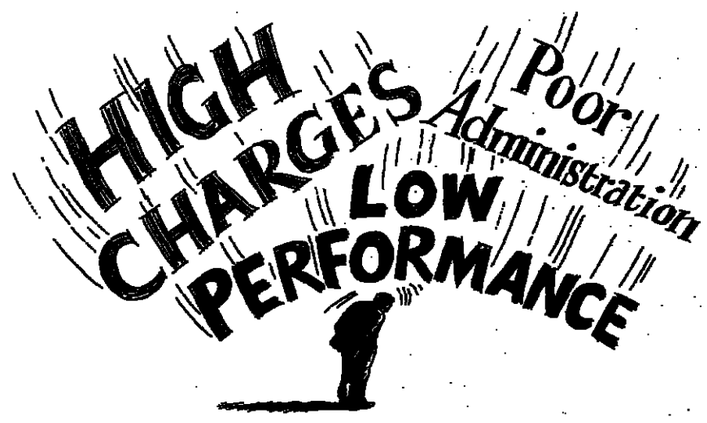
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BUSINESS PROFILE: **Peter Morgan**

Critic who envisages a new battle of Britain

Carol Leonard finds there is more to the man who heads the Institute of Directors than at first meets the eye



Outspoken man of ambition: Peter Morgan says he wants to use his talents as a marketeer, thinker and organiser and cannot remain silent during meetings

One person who will not have a hangover this morning, from drinking too much celebratory champagne, is Peter Morgan, director-general of the Institute of Directors. The prospects for 1993, according to Morgan, offer little excuse for such frivolities.

His views on this subject have already been well aired. Last week, while Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was desperately attempting to talk up the British economy, Morgan unceremoniously damned his efforts with faint praise. What he had to say — that the conditions were not yet right to pull Britain out of recession and that a further cut in interest rates was necessary — was seen as a snub to the government and made headlines almost as prominent as those made by the Chancellor the previous day. He also had Britain's battery of small businessmen cheering from just about every shire in the land. At last, someone was saying publicly what they all said in private. "I believe there will be some recovery in 1993 but there is no reason to suppose that the consensus forecast of 1 per cent will be beaten," he said. "The best chance of beating it will be an early cut in interest rates but, given the present posture, I do not see more than 1 per cent growth for the full year. That means a very slow first half and very slow recovery after that, amounting to a neutral 1993. We might get a 2 per cent reduction in interest rates but it is likely to come at the half-way stage rather than in the first two months."

> **'That means a very slow first half and very slow recovery after that, amounting to a neutral 1993'**

His concerns for the future revolve around the balance of payments deficit, unemployment and the need to create substantial new employment, and the budget deficit which, he fears, could lead to the government increasing taxation. "Raising taxes is not really the answer," Morgan says. "It's the economic base we need to look at. It's a question of whether there is a structural fault in the UK economy or do we just wait until the good times come. The Chancellor is right on quality and about the effect of the motor car industry but I do worry about there being not enough quantity. If we do not have quantity then when we open the gates in 1993, it will represent a new battle of Britain."

This tersely worded warning forms the crux of his new year letter to the IOD's 50,000 members, a letter due to arrive on their desks on Monday. "The bottom line of it is that most of the pre-conditions exist for recovery but that we look for the government to push the recovery on with interest rate cuts. But what we must consider now is where that recovery cycle will take us to, what will be the conditions at the peak of the next cycle, where will we be in terms of taxes, balance of payments and employment. I am not convinced that there will not be a shortfall in those conditions because we have too narrow a base of economic activity."

There is nothing narrow about Morgan's base of activities. He has grown with the job and is likely to grow further. Ask him what he thinks his stamp on the IOD is likely to be, now that he has only 18 months of his five-year term to go, and he replies: "Providing better services to more members. When you take over a job you tend to take over the reins as they were put down and both of my predecessors made sure they had a sound business in terms of housekeeping but concentrated on public affairs. From where I came from, I needed to get that public affairs thing under control as it were. I was new to it all, I had had no exposure. I had to become a student of the issues with which we were dealing, to embrace those principles. Now I'm at the point where I can add the dimension of a greater focus on the institution's business because, at the end of the day, we are a business."

His description implies that while his predecessors, Walter Goldsmith and Sir John Hoskyns, gave the IOD gravitas and a credible voice in public affairs, his role has been more internal. In this, he is far too modest. His profile is not yet consistently high but it is starting to rise, people are taking him seriously and the intelligent things he has to say, adhering to a steadfastly independent line, appear to be making a lasting impression in the right quarters. Indeed, there are some who would argue that in recent months, Morgan has become more vocal, more outspoken than either Goldsmith or Hoskyns. He has found his feet. The mouse has started to roar.

Morgan comes across as a man incorruptible when it comes to principles. As a man who never experiences any difficulty in finding the right words to express his thoughts. As a man who is only just getting into his stride and who is starting to enjoy it. And that means, whether the government likes it or not, that he is likely to make headlines with increasing frequency. What makes the evolution of Morgan so extraordinary is the fact that he appeared to have come from nowhere. For the previous 30 years, this 56-year-old man had been locked away inside IBM, the computer conglomerate. His career there had been impressive. He arrived as a sales trainee in 1959, became sales director 12 years later and joined the IBM UK board in 1987. But outside IBM and its immediate industry he was unknown and that, he explains, was one of his main reasons for accepting the IOD job. Morgan is a man still full of ambition, not in the least one who longs only for peaceful retirement after his present task is complete. He said: "If you are a director of a subsidiary of an American, German or Japanese company you are completely unknown, and because of that anonymity one's opportunities to do anything after IBM are necessarily limited. I saw the institute as a stepping stone. I had not really taken on board the scale of the exposure but I felt it would take me along new corridors and offer new opportunities." He certainly looks more than the part. He is impeccably groomed, wearing a stylish, double breasted dark grey suit, highly polished shoes and swept back hair revealing both a receding hair line and a dome-shaped head.

Morgan has an impressive aura about him. There is a sense that you are in the presence of a formidible intellect and a feeling that this is a man who is accustomed to commanding the respect of his peers. Indeed, any of the IOD's 150 employees who fail to accord Morgan the respect he deserves is likely to witness a flash of the fiery Welsh temper that lurks just beneath the surface. Colleagues admit that they have occasionally seen it flare, that he is likely to shout and swear — "I use my full vocabulary" — and that his faded Swansea accent becomes markedly more pronounced, contrasting with his normal speaking voice, which is inclined to be so soft that one has to strain to hear his every word. He will even occasionally mumble, in a manner typical of someone whose brain works faster than their mouth.

An only child, the son of a Lloyds bank clerk — "I have inherited my father's intellect and my mother's application" — Morgan was born in the Swansea valley, educated at Llandovery College served as a second lieutenant in the Royal Signals during his national service and attended Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he read history. "I think I have always been outspoken. I have difficulty in participating in a meeting in silence and I have always been prepared to get up in front of a management group to tell them why we are doing what we are doing."

Close colleagues, he says, talk about his "conceptualisation streak — I can take a lot of disparate things and bring them together." He is self-sufficient but not a loner. An enthusiastic rugby supporter, he is a firm believer in team work. He is not a natural raconteur, prefers to spend an evening at home with his wife than socialise elsewhere, but entertains generously in his Haselmere, Surrey home — an Edwardian house with a swimming pool in two acres.

He met his wife, Sue, at a squash club in Cardiff and, of their three daughters, he says that the eldest, Justine, aged 27, is most like him. "She is very determined, pretty bright and when she opens up she has a delightful personality ... but she needs to know people before she will open up." So where next for this surprising and impressive Welshman? He has, he says, no clear plan, only a belief that he is capable of one more major task. He is proud of his non-executive directorships — at South Wales Electricity and National Provident Institution — but admits that his future does not lie there.

"I do not want my main income stream to come from non-executive directorships." He is not referring to the income involved — since he saves more than he spends — but to the challenge of the job.

He is still hungry for more. "I view myself as a businessman at heart and I would like to take a more full-time role, I want a challenge. There are some industries I know better than others but I'm a marketeer, an organiser, a thinker and I would like to do something that uses those talents."

St Anselm collapse may aid Forte's Savoy stake

A STAKE of 4 per cent in the Savoy Hotel group could fall into the hands of rival Forte next year following the collapse of St Anselm Development Company. St Anselm directors had already held talks with Forte, which is prevented from taking its 68 per cent stake in Savoy any higher until the end of 1994.

Robin Addy, of Cork Gully, appointed as St Anselm's receiver after the value of its property portfolio slumped, said he intended to resume the talks, and talk to other potential buyers. The current market value of the stake is more than £9 million, but Mr Addy said: "I would hope to achieve something more than that." A year ago St Anselm was looking for offers of about £12 million.

Hope on German rates

A SOLIDARITY pact requiring government spending cuts, including public-sector savings, would give the Bundesbank the opportunity to lower German interest rates, Theo Waigel, finance minister, has said. An agreement on the pact must be reached this month between the government, opposition parties, industry and unions, he told German television. The opposition Social Democrats have said welfare cuts proposed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right government threaten to torpedo talks on any pact.

Gas deal with OFT

BRITISH Gas has reached agreement with Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of Fair Trading, to make an extra 100 million therms of gas available to competitors. Last March, it agreed to cut its share of sales to industrial and commercial customers from 95 to 40 per cent by 1995. Yesterday's agreement means 600 million therms will be released to competitors in October. Of this, 400 million have been allocated. The remaining 200 million go out to tender in February; allocations are expected in April.

Opec faces challenge

WEAK oil prices in 1993 may challenge Opec to overcome divisions and put fresh curbs on supplies. A clutch of unsold cargoes of North Sea oil was the latest symptom of a flat world petroleum market, industry officials said. High output from Opec is one problem. Demand is sluggish in a feeble global economy, and a mild American winter has created a pool of heating fuel. *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*, a New York industry newsletter, said markets for prompt delivery were "buckling under pressure of unwanted material".

Hanson offshoot wins right to fight Costain sale in US court

By Philip Robinson and Patricia Tehan



Seeking a permanent injunction on the sale: Lord Hanson

PEABODY, Hanson's American coal subsidiary, has won the right to pursue its dispute with Costain, the construction group, over the proposed sale of Costain's Australian coal-mining business to a higher bidder, in the US courts.

Hanson has been granted a preliminary injunction against the sale and will seek a permanent injunction on January 19, despite a last-minute appeal by Costain late on new year's eve.

The dispute centres on the decision by Costain not to sell its Australian interests to Peabody for $200 million, but instead to Altus Finance for $245 million. Altus is a subsidiary of Crédit Lyonnais, the French state bank. Hanson's US legal action is designed to force Costain to complete the deal with Peabody and alleges Costain breached an agreement by seeking a higher offer from Altus.

Stephen Limbaugh, US district judge in St Louis, Missouri, temporarily blocked the Costain-Altus deal on Wednesday with an injunction pending a full hearing. Costain's appeal to the eighth circuit appeals court late on new year's eve was quashed.

A Hanson spokesman said: "Costain's appeal has been denied and we go to full trial on January 19." Costain had hoped to complete the sale to Altus at the end of 1992.

A spokesman for Costain said: "We are disappointed with the decision and with the further delay. We are determined to preserve our right to act in accordance with the wishes of our shareholders."

Costain says the dispute is a matter for English courts as the agreement was between Costain and Peabody Resources UK, Peabody's British subsidiary. It is considering making its own counter-claim for damages against Hanson.

Hanson alleges that Costain granted Peabody exclusive negotiating rights when the initial purchase talks took place.

It says the original agreement specifically stated that Costain would not solicit any competing bids and that Costain would use its good faith efforts to consummate the transaction. Hanson claims Costain expressly acknowledged and agreed that money damages would not be an adequate remedy if it breached the agreement.

Early last month, Costain paid Hanson the $5 million termination fee previously agreed in the event that the Australian deal did not go through. The fee is unconnected with the current legal dispute.



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SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1993

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

What seven wise men will tell Lamont

Economic advisers stress need for more rate cuts

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE "seven wise men", invited by the Treasury to form a panel of independent economic forecasters, are almost unanimous in expecting that interest rates will have to be cut again this year to reignite economic growth.

That suggests an immediate difference of opinion with the Chancellor, who set the panel up as part of his drive for more apparent openness in economic decision-making. Norman Lamont said in an interview in *The Times* on Thursday that interest rate reductions would be considered only "if monetary demand was manifestly too low". For him, if the economy delivers the 1 per cent growth the Treasury is forecasting for this year, there would be no case for lower interest rates. Whether he can ride out the first six months of the year with that commitment intact is questionable, according to a six-to-one majority on the panel. With the likelihood of no more than very patchy signs of growth in the first half of the year and unemployment rising inexorably to above 3 million by the end of the year, most of the panel believe the Chancellor will take the opportunity to cut interest rates and, if he does not, he should.

Six out of the seven are expecting interest rates to be cut this year, whatever the Chancellor asserts. Two — eminent Keynesian Professor Wynne Godley of Cambridge University and leading free market monetarist Professor Patrick Minford of the University of Liverpool — have been quite clear they want interest rates to be at least as low as 5 per cent to get a proper recovery under way at all. Without more interest rate cuts, Professor Godley, more pessimistic than most, believes Britain could stay in recession in 1993 and that unemployment could reach 3.5 million, easily a post-war record, by the end of the year and go on rising the following year. Professor Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research, another prominent monetarist, agrees that lower rates are urgently needed, arguing that the monetary demand referred to by the Chancellor will not be high enough to get recovery unless rates are cut again.

Andrew Sentance, of the Confederation of British Industry, is forecasting only 0.7 per cent growth in 1993, below the Treasury's 1 per cent forecast, even factoring in a 1 per cent cut in interest rates to 6 per cent.

Gavyn Davies, of Goldman Sachs, forecasts growth of between 1 and 1.5 per cent in 1993 but believes interest rates may come down to 5 per cent as the government simultaneously tightens fiscal policy to try and control the growing budget deficit. His argument, one that comes up repeatedly in the panel's analysis, is that a change in Britain's economic policy mix to tackle the "twin deficits" (current account and public sector) is needed.

> *'It would be disastrous to have another year of recession . . . far worse than being a bit over the top on inflation'*

Joining the camp foreseeing lower interest rates is Andrew Britton, director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, despite the fact that he has virtually the most optimistic prediction for growth in 1993 among public or private forecasters. He is expecting 2 per cent growth this year, double the rate expected by the Treasury, basing his optimism on what he predicts will be a healthy response from exporters to sterling's devaluation since it left the exchange-rate mechanism and a small but significant revival in consumer spending because of lower interest rates. Although he believes that the underlying inflation rate could exceed the top of the government's 1 to 4 per cent target range by the end of 1993, he still believes the government should take the opportunity to cut interest rates whenever sterling is strong enough.

Acknowledging that he cannot be certain that the recovery will be as soon or rapid as he is forecasting, he said: "It would be disastrous to have another year of recession and it's the job of anyone advising the government to prevent that from happening. This would be a far more serious problem than being a bit over the top on inflation." A lone voice among the seven is David Currie of the London Business School. His growth forecast — at 0.9 per cent — is almost identical to the Treasury's. But that anaemic economic performance is not, for him, an argument for lower interest rates. Quite the opposite, he cautions that the government may have loosened monetary policy too much and that, once the full effect of interest rate cuts come through, rates may have to rise sharply again to head off a renewed bout of inflation later this year. The tone of David Currie's comments on the economy are at odds with his six colleagues on the advisory panel (and much closer to the public comments of the Chancellor). The analysis of the others concentrates much more on securing the elusive recovery.

With all forecasts, even those of the seven hand-picked by the Treasury, there are huge risks of them turning out wrong. Part of the reason for this is that economic policy may have to be forced in one direction or the other because other, different crises emerge precisely *because* the economy is recovering.

One, which, with the economy flattened by recession for the last two years, seems a long way off — a resurgence of inflation. Apart from David Currie, nobody is looking for a serious resurgence of inflation in 1993 and some expect inflation to go on falling. It is the twin deficit problem that is most worrying. The panel's forecasts for the current account deficit tend to be more pessimistic than the Treasury's autumn statement prediction of a £15.5 billion shortfall with even the conservative London Business School forecasting a current account deficit of more than £20 billion.

Even in the depths of recession, with consumers out for the count, Britain has been importing more than it exports. As demand recovers, this imbalance will become more extreme, however well manufacturers react to sterling's depreciation since September. The Chancellor said in his interview with *The Times* that he did not regard the current account as a major problem. This is not the view of some of his advisers — notably Wynne Godley and Gavyn Davies' team at Goldman Sachs, who believe that Britain's deteriorating trade position will act as a brake on recovery. Both also advocate further devaluation of sterling to boost exports.

But there is one aspect that appears to concern the Chancellor as much as his advisory panel — the huge and growing public sector deficit. The economic assumptions used in the autumn statement suggest a PSBR in the fiscal year 1993-4 of £44 billion but some forecasters are much more pessimistic. Gavyn Davies's team at Goldman Sachs, for example, is expecting the PSBR to hit £54 billion and argues strongly for a loosening of monetary policy accompanied by a tightening of the government's fiscal stance.

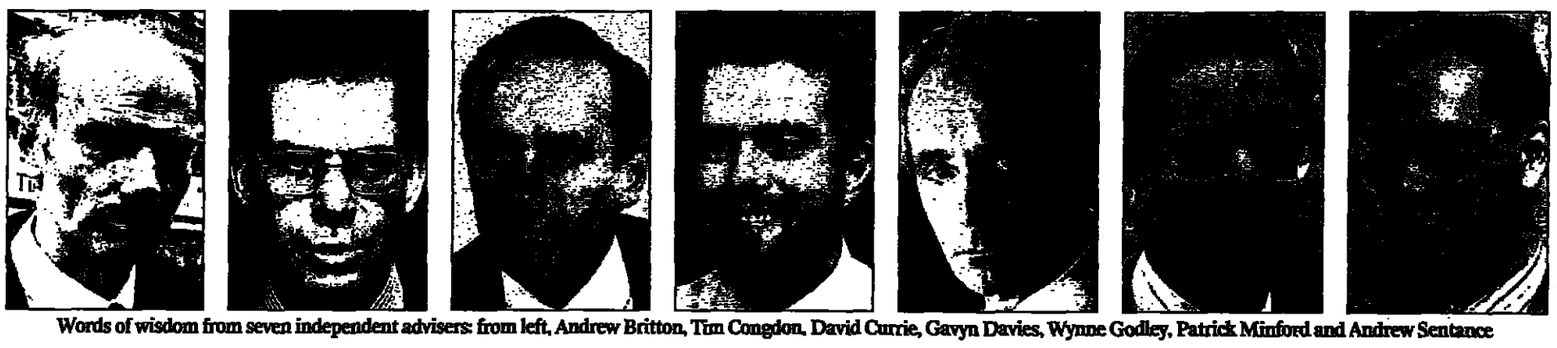
His colleagues on the panel broadly agree. To a man, they want the government to take firm action to control and then bring down the PSBR. Talk of tax rises is already rife in economic and political circles, suggesting that the traditional process of softening up the public response before painful budgets has begun.

With the panel scheduled to meet formally for the first time in February, shortly before the Budget, their views on how to fill in the fiscal grand canyon are likely be listened to most closely.

The universal pessimism among the seven about the government's finances strongly suggests, if the Chancellor listens, that there is, indeed, some nasty medicine to come. Read their lips.



New year resolution: Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, battered by the markets in 1992, is urged to drag Britain out of recession



Words of wisdom from seven independent advisers: from left, Andrew Britton, Tim Congdon, David Currie, Gavyn Davies, Wynne Godley, Patrick Minford and Andrew Sentance

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A year to bank on boldness and confidence

THE entrails of 1992 do not portend well for 1993. The stock market is at an all-time high and strongly discounts a recovery, of which soothsayers speak but of which statisticians have yet to deliver evidence. In 1993, the market could find itself in limbo.

But at some point this year, economic recovery must surely be delivered by low interest rates and the pound's devaluation. The market worked this out on September 17, the day after so-called Black Wednesday, and the shares we would regard as recovery prospects are discounting most of what the eye can see.

As we did last year, we would point out the wholly artificial nature of recommending shares on a one-year, January to December view. The beginning of the year is not always the best time to buy or sell.

In a year of modest economic recovery, smaller companies are likely to outperform larger ones; it seems a fair guess that the new FT-SE 250 will beat the FT-SE 100. But instead of fishing out smaller stocks, with which readers may be unfamiliar, we thought instead to have some fun with household name shares that have fallen foul of the market and could benefit from economic recovery.

Because most of these shares have been overlooked, in a market anxiously seeking recovery, readers should note that most of them carry a wealth warning. Think of some of our selections as you would a flutter on the 3.30 at Newmarket — do not bet if you cannot afford to write off your stake. Equities risk being strangled by the huge public borrowing requirement. The £52 billion the government needs to find in 1993 is much more than the estimated £37 billion of institutional cash flow expected. Private investors should remember that in the next year or two, the government may need to offer some attractive yields to meet its funding requirements.

To think of recovery is to think of property, construction, engineering and leisure. In **Trafalgar House**, one has all four. In addition, Hongkong Land owns 14.9 per cent of the shares, bought at 85p a share, has another 6 per cent under option and appears friendly and supportive. The shares stand at 79p, in line with net asset value. Trafalgar has debts of £468 million against net assets of £553 million, and the dividend could be cut again. If net assets fall below £500 million, the company is in breach of its banking covenants.

	Price(p)	Yield (%)	Multiple*
Trafalgar House	79	10.1	9.4
ICI	1,059	6.92	19.3
Hambro Countrywide	40	—	—
Storehouse	202	3.3	26.5
Hillsdown	133	8.8	9.3
Forte	188	7.0	31.3

* Of share price divided by earnings

The Ritz Hotel and two Cunard liners are up for sale. But after a mauling from the Financial Reporting Review Panel, Trafalgar has to be right at the bottom of City sentiment. This high-risk selection hinges on the new management's ability to keep the conglomerate ticking over until the upturn boosts its cyclical businesses. A safer, but still cyclical, stock is **ICI**, which plans to hive off its bioscience businesses, to be called Zeneca. Few in the City have had a good word for ICI lately. The company has suffered from heavy competition for its star drug, Tenormin, a heart treatment, and its cyclical chemicals businesss is at the bottom of a deep recession. A decision is due on the demerger at the end of February. Be wary of a Zeneca rights issue, if the share split goes ahead.

A gradual return of consumer confidence will also help the housing market. **Hambro Countrywide**, the estate agency chain and financial services group, will have lost money in 1992, but will make £5 million or so in 1993 if predictions of a 15 per cent pick-up in the housing market are correct. But it is highly geared to a housing recovery and can only benefit as confidence grows.

In the high street, we have opted for the safety of **Storehouse** because the BHS and Mothercare group should perform nicely, even without any recovery in the economy. The balance sheet is sound and cash flow of between £100 million and £130 million in the year to March 31 will leave the group with net cash of up to £40 million at the year end.

Hillsdown offers the attractions of both recovery and a defensive area of the market. The group has promised a maintained dividend for the year. Disposals are expected, following the departure of Sir Harry Solomon, and successful rationalisation in meat and poultry should help the shares.

Finally, we feel some exposure to the leisure sector is necessary if recovery is the order of the day. Nothing would perk up **Forte** shares like more people booking into its hotels. The shares have been under a cloud but the group's strategy is becoming clearer following the £400 million Gardner Merchant sale, which reduces debt to just over 34 per cent of shareholders' funds.



Crown jewel: Trafalgar House is keeping the QE2, but selling less luxurious liners

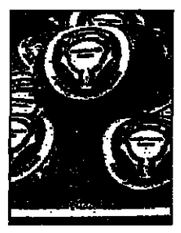
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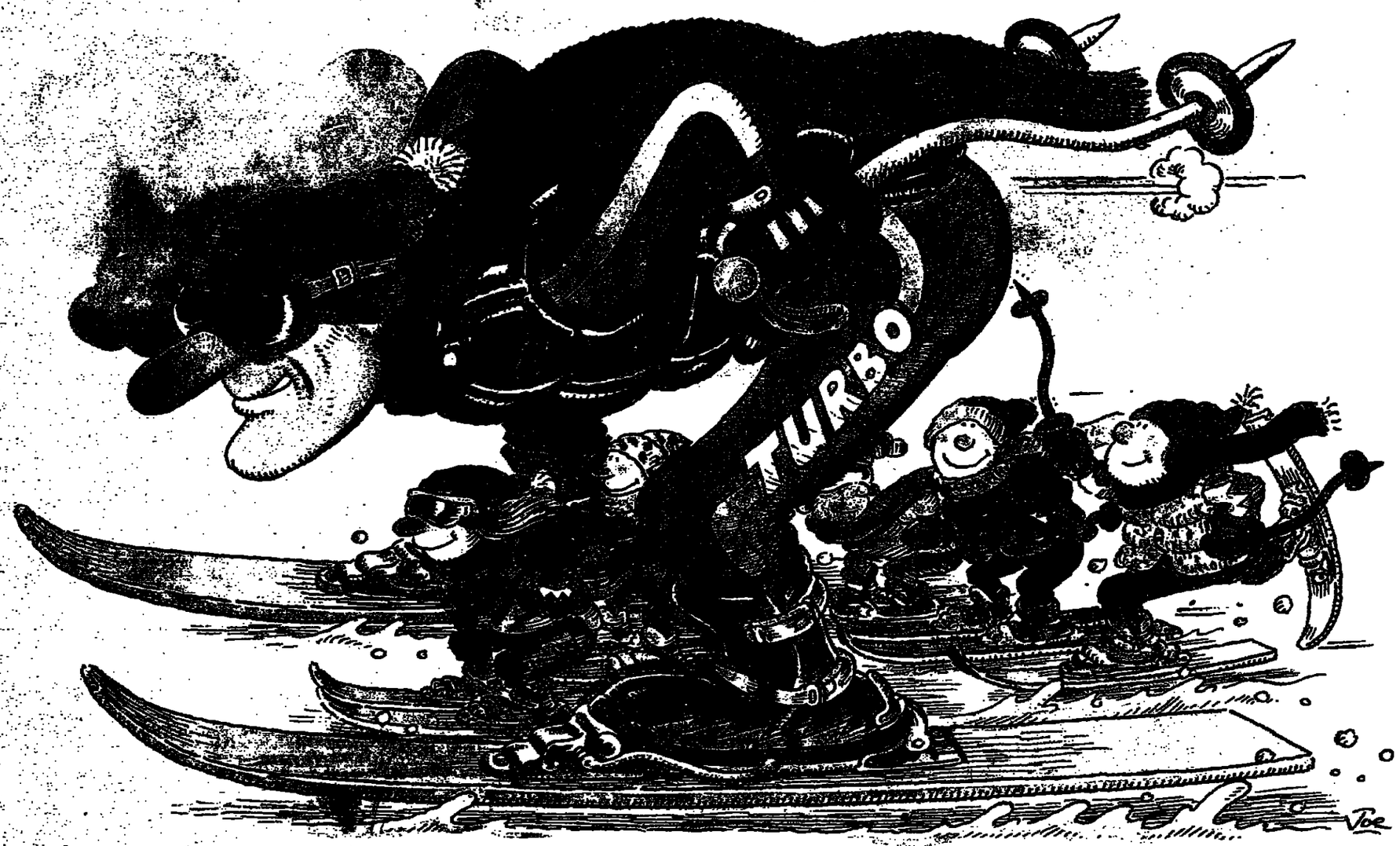
WEEKEND

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1993

The crucial calendar for serious skiers

Whatever your skiing skills, knowing when, rather than where, to go is the first essential, reports *Doug Sager*



Leafing through the brochures, comparing prices, counting the number of blue pistes, frowning at the exaggerated sunshine hours and snowfall depths . . . pity the poor woman trying to decide where to book the family skiing holiday this winter (yes, woman: a Swiss travel study indicates that most winter holidays are booked by women).

But whoever you are, ignore the list of venues in the brochures and take a look at the ski calendar: *when* you head for the slopes is just as important than *where*. No matter how nice the hotel, or what a good deal you nailed, if it's minus 20F outside or the pistes are saturated with schoolkids on half-term, you are unlikely to be overjoyed.

Skiing is a hit and miss affair: being in the right place at the right time creates the magic. The reason why some skiers display fanatical loyalty towards a particular resort, returning for years on end, is usually nothing more than nostalgia for one fantastic week experienced long ago when the snow fell and the sun crinkled.

This kind of experience is dumb luck. No one can predict the great snow weeks. But you can avoid mistakes by knowing what you want, and when is the most likely time to find it. Serious skiers looking for snow, low prices and to hell with the sunshine would be crazy to fork out for a holiday in February, when they can ski the colder, shorter, cheaper days of January. Fair-weather skiers will find March better for suntanning than the Christmas period.

For me, as a ski writer, planning the skiing season is no idle matter — I have to fit some 50 European, American and Canadian resorts into the winter. To do this, I use a French school calendar, which runs from September to September, and synchronise my skiing with a holiday planner issued by the French resort of La Plagne which outlines the school holidays of every European nation.

This year, the worst week of the winter for crowds and queues will be February 20-27, when seven nations unleash their school populations. From February 13 to March 13 is a holiday period which particularly affects France and French-speaking Switzerland. A good time to go to Austria.

Germanic hordes are set loose somewhat later, from March 27 through the Easter holidays ending on April 17. In America, the only really unpleasant period is the President's Day weekend, scheduled this year for February 12-15.

The trend is towards skiing later in the season, when the snow has been best this past decade. I have skied powder snow in May for four of the past five years.

Skiers irritated by congested pistes and peak-season lift queues should consider ski touring and ski resorts. When queues at Verbier's notorious Tortin bottleneck exceed the two-hour limit, I strap on the sealskins and slide up the hill. Ski safaris hit resort lifts first thing in the morning and then cross over into the back country, skiing off piste down to a rail or bus link and on to another resort, going on for the day or an entire week.

January is the time for American bargains. Snowbird, Alta and Park City in Utah are inundated with ultra-light powder flakes, and the snow never stops. Aspen and Vail, the big names in American skiing, are the least crowded now. But be warned, the Rockies can be much colder than the Alps, and lifts shut as early as 3.30pm.

Sunshine skiers should try the Italian Dolomites. Cortina in Italy, Arosa and Crans Montana in Switzerland, will have sun if anywhere does. I like to visit the Bernese Oberland villages of Wengen, Mürren and Grindelwald. Under the Eiger, these are at their best in snowy, cold weather. Andermatt in central Switzerland is a famous "snowhole", uncrowded and packed with powder for off-piste skiers in January.

To be sure of good powder, I like to ski the Valluga in St Anton, Austria, one of the best off-piste resorts in the Alps, but it is not very high compared with its Swiss and French counterparts. Val d'Isère in France is a high altitude station with good snow all winter. But I also like to hit Val early in the year to make sure I get there before the crowds arrive.

February is the month for glitz in Gstaad and St Moritz. They're breaking out the fur coats in Lech, and the chic season in Courchevel chalets is officially open. This is the time to enjoy horse-drawn sleigh rides and gentle ski excursions. The classic resorts, Zermatt, Chamonix, Kitzbühel and Cortina, throng with names — and name-droppers.

Dedicated skiers suffer from the crowds. This is the time I take off on ski safari in the Italian Dolomites, hitting only small resorts. One winter I rented an old farmhouse in a hamlet near Disentis in eastern Switzerland, a place to which few go, and skied excellent deep snow off-piste the entire week.

Lesser known resorts, with family atmosphere, are a good way to escape the pressure of high prices and long lift queues in February. Try Flims-Waldhaus or Lenzerheide-Valbella in Switzerland, Sölden or Zurs in Austria, or La Clusaz in France.

If you are forced by school half-term to brave the crowds, but still insist on getting in the most skiing, the French purpose-built ski complexes, paradoxically, might be the answer. Les Arcs, La Plagne and Flaine may not be pretty but have the lift capacity and the vast terrain to swallow up huge numbers of skiers, at a reasonable price.

March is traditionally a month of sunshine, but in recent years one of the snowier periods, too. This is the time for long ski itineraries, adventure skiing and cruising the extensive piste networks of ski circuses such as the Portes du Soleil.

In Chamonix the Vallée Blanche, the world's longest and most scenic lift-serviced ski run, should still be well covered with snow from 3,800m to the valley floor at 1,030m. The Portes du Soleil is a complex of resorts which allows the ordinary intermediate skier to roam across terrain as vast as that accessible to the most extreme off-piste skier, yet always with the security of marked, groomed slopes.

In Canada, Whistler and Blackcomb have warmed up enough for the European skier to enjoy the longest vertical runs, and the "château" hotels in Banff and Lake Louise offer enticing discounts on the most scenic skiing in the Rockies. The cowboy town of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is at its best in March, when early-morning powder skiing leads on to the first spring snow slopes for all day adventure skiing.

April, when the tourists go home and the ski bums and chalet girls come out to play, is the time for spring snow, an incredibly smooth, crust-like surface caused by melting and freezing which is the most sensual of skiing sensations. It happens everywhere, depending on angle of sun and elevation. Part of the fun is finding it, and skiing it just before it melts into leg-snapping concrete mush.

Ski-touring along the classic Haute Route from Zermatt to Chamonix begins now, an excellent adventure for skiers who want to extend the season, experience 4,000m-plus peaks and crevassed glaciers, and who don't mind a stroll across the Alps. Resort skiing at high-altitude Chamonix, Tignes and Saas Fee continues into the summer skiing glacier season.

HOTLINES TO THE COLD SPOTS

- **Italian Dolomites:** *The Superski Dolomiti ski pass covers a multitude of resorts between Bolzano and Cortina; a car is a must. Call 010 39 471 795397.*
- **Andermatt:** *For off-piste adventure and powder snow weeks, call Alpine Adventures on 010 41 44 68353.*
- **Disentis:** *Former medieval monastic centre, popular with Swiss families. Call 010 41 81 9475822.*
- **Chamonix:** *Collinneige (0276 24262) is the only British tour operator maintaining chalets all year and can fix up the Vallée Blanche or other off-piste trips.*
- **Whistler, Lake Louise and Banff in Canada:** *Crystal (081-399 5144) features "château" hotels offering the scope and luxury of the old railroad days.*
- **Colorado and Utah:** *Ski the American Dream (081-552 [illegible]) has the best on-ground support.*
- **Jackson Hole, Wyoming:** *Ski Scott Dunn (081-767 0202) is well established and guests are accepted as locals.*
- **Spring snow and ski touring:** *For the full range of Alpine guiding services contact: Compagnie des Guides, Chamonix (0276 24262); Alpine Adventures (010 41 44 68353); Powder Byrne (071-223 0601).*
- **Calendars:** Powder *magazine calendar (0101 714 496 5922) lists all European school holidays. For Colorado calendars call 0101 303 935 0900.*
- **Organisation:** *Those without the time to plan ski holidays can call Ski Solutions on 081-944 1155. The national tourist offices of the Alpine nations list all main resorts, accommodation, facilities, specialities and where to ski with children: Austria, 071-629 0461; France, 071-491 7622; Switzerland, 071-734 1921.*
- **Helicopter skiing in Canada:** *Mike Wiegele (081-767 0202) operates the single largest heli "ranch".*

Hills alive with the sound of mongers

Does no corner of chock-a-block Britain remain untrampled?



WEEKEND *voice*

MARY KILLEN

During the festive season we were able to view the snow-capped peaks of Snowdonia through the kitchen window of the house of my parents-in-law on Anglesey.

Inspired by this vision of grandeur, five of us set off in a car. We would re-oxygenate our systems with the rushing mountain air — systems which had, for too long, been sullied by the recycled smog of the Thames basin. We would restore ourselves physically, but, most importantly, we would receive the sort of spiritual sustenance that comes from experiencing solitude in a magnificent landscape.

The Glyder Fach car-park was full when we drove in, and we had to mount the kerb in line with 50 or so other cars parked on the busy road. What were the other cars doing there, we wondered. Perhaps their owners had abandoned them, having used the car-park as a pickup point from which to be coached to London for the sales.

No, to our chagrin, we saw that, far from exhibiting loyal family-style hardiness and independence of thinking, our party of mountain climbers made up just another set of "leisure statistics".

As I was faffing in the boot, the hiss of air brakes made me crack my head on the inside of the hatchback. Two coachloads of what looked like young offenders in matching cagoules disgorged and took up the vanguard of a faintly menacing upward procession, their passage made easier by the fact that, to prevent erosion of Snowdonia, a stone footpath had been constructed on the nursery slopes.

Wearing putty-faced expressions we started our own ascent, saying "sorry" and "hello" so often that eventually I pretended to be mad and stared numbly ahead so as not to have to keep it up. Surely we would find the solitude we sought further up, where sluggards would fear to tread?

But no, fitness freaks abounded. Tiny specks were moving up the higher ground — people who must have risen at dawn to steal a march on their fellow solitude seekers.

I had witnessed this sort of Cecil B. de Mille scenario before. When we tried to climb Langdale Pikes in the Lake District, thousands of "extras" had blighted the landscape like human termites. But that was mid-summer. What was this mid-winter enthusiasm?

What someone like me resents in finding herself to be just another leisure statistic is that so few of the other people to be found in beauty spots seem to be exhibiting the nun or monk-like tranquillity one might hope for, given the landscape they are passing through. "Mongering" was the order of the day in Snowdonia. Mongering — meaning any activity undertaken in a spirit of panic or threat. So the hordes mongered past us, sometimes requiring us to flatten ourselves against the wall.

We stopped for a picnic lunch on the corner of a lake. "Crag rats" were scaling the nearby vertical cliffs. Sitting down opposite, we trained our binoculars on what, we imagined, would be the satisfying spectacle of one couple's slow but sure-footed ascent. Yet the experience turned out to be more ghoulish, as one was a novice climber making heavy weather of it, roped to her partner who was patiently coaxing her to launch off from her tiny shelf. Our jaws locked in horror as we ghouled from below.

Then things became even more mongering as we spotted a group of people running near the opposite side of the lake. "What's going on now?" I jittered.

"They are probably fell runners," said young Pip Wood. "It's a legitimate sport. You run across fells instead of walking."

Snowdonia is a natural playground for the industrial conurbations of the North West. The new A55 expressway knocks 40 minutes off the journey from Manchester or Liverpool — now only an hour and a half away. As we returned to the car-park we even saw divers in wet suits. Not content with exploring claustrophobic caves, it turns out there is an even more hellish sport of crawling or swimming through narrow, flooded, underground passages.

I suppose it is unrealistic to expect to find a haunt of ancient peace anywhere untrampled in chock-a-block Britain.

We once met a man on Islay who had moved there from the thronging south to an isolated farm on the coast. To his horror, he saw hordes of people filing past his door (including us), asking if it was the way to one of the last natural nesting grounds of the chough, as written up in a guide book.

About ten years ago, Adam Nicolson brought out the National Trust book of long walks. "Oh no!" cried Lesley, an American friend. "That means creeps will go on them now!"

I suppose the consolation is that creeps don't want to go on long walks, even if millions of others do.



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THEATRE

LONDON

AMPHIBIANS: Superb ensemble playing in Billy Roche's elegy for a Wexford fishing community. **The Pit,** Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.15pm.

CAROUSEL: Joanna Riding and Michael Hayden star in a triumphant revival of the Rodgers & Hammerstein fairground musical. **National (Lyttelton),** South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Tues, Sat, 2.15pm.



Superb: Kenneth Branagh, Jane Lapotaire in Hamlet

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS: Ian Judge's sublimely funny production, with award-winning Desmond Barrit playing both portly twins. **Barbican,** Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.15pm.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC: Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full poignancy of his fate. **Theatre Royal,** Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

THE DEEP BLUE SEA: Karel Reisz directs Penelope Wilton and Linus Roache in Rattigan's 1952 drama of hopeless infatuation. His last major play. **Almeida,** Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Previews from Wed, 8pm; opens Jan 12, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

THE GAMES OF LOVE AND CHANCE: Maggie Steed, disguised as a servant, discovers true love and obedience in one of Marivaux's better contrivances. Mike Alfreds and Neil Bartlett co-direct. **National (Cottesloe),** South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews from Wed, 7.30pm; opens Jan 11, 7pm.

HAMLET: Kenneth Branagh superb in Adrian Noble's excellent production. Uncut version, plays four-and-a-half hours. **Barbican,** Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Fri, 6.30pm, then in repertoire.

HAY FEVER: Very funny performances (not always where you expect) in Coward's excellent comedy. **Albery,** St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats, Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN: Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical. It coarsens the values of Manuel Puig's novel but Chita Rivera makes a striking vamp. **Shaftesbury,** Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

LOST IN YONKERS: Terrific performance by Rosemary Harris in a Neil Simon comedy more weighty than usual. Maureen Lipman gives good value as a loopy aunt. **Strand,** Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

MR CINDERS: Samuel West and Sally Anne Triplett spread a little happiness in another revival of the Vivian Ellis charmer about a poor young man and a rich girl. **King's Head,** 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226 1916). Now previewing, 8pm; opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Tues-Sat, 8pm, mats Sat and Sun, 3.30pm.

OUR SONG: Peter O'Toole in Keith Waterhouse's play about a menopausal male's infatuation with a young woman. Neatly done. **Apollo,** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm.

RETREAT FROM MOSCOW: Barry Stanton and Michael N. Harbour in Don Taylor's latest, billed as a tragi-comedy, about an English classicist, a Russian exile and a bulging suitcase. **New End,** 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 (071-794 0022). Previews Tues, Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Tues-Sun, 7.30pm, mat Sun, 4pm.

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT: Simon Cadell, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel. **Wyndham's,** Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

WAITING AT THE WATER'S EDGE: Moving between the coasts of Harlech and Nova Scotia two women search for what is missing in their lives. Polly Teale directs a new play by Lucinda Coxon. **Bush,** Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Previews from Tues, 8pm; opens Fri, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM: Helen Boxendale plays beautiful, tragic Lady Isabel Vane, whose misfortunes in *East Lynne* would melt a heart of stone. **Birmingham Rep Studio,** Centenary Square (021-236 4455). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat, 3.15pm.

EDINBURGH: The spring season starts amazingly early with Juliet Cadzow in the title role of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Sixteen schoolgirls fill up the numbers of Miss Brodie's crème de la crème. **Royal Lyceum,** Grindlay Street (031-229 9697). Preview Thurs, 7.45pm; opens Fri, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat (Jan 16 and 23), 3.15pm.

LEICESTER: Julia Bardsley directs a cast of four adults and three children in *Frankenstein*, the Gothic tale that spawned a thousand movies (from 12 years upwards). **Haymarket Studio,** Belgrave Gate (0533 539797). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, various times.

LIVERPOOL: A three-week season of new work by local authors opens with Shaun Duggan's *Boy: sex and the young man*. Duggan won a Royal Court Young Writer's Award for his rueful comedy *William*. **The Studio,** Playhouse, Williamson Square (051-709 8478). Wed-Sat, 7.45pm.

MANCHESTER: *The Moonstone*, the first-ever detective story, with plenty of suspects, including Indian jugglers (circus tricks provided) and Helen Atkinson Wood as the owner of the missing jewel. **Royal Exchange,** St Ann's Square (061-833 9833). Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm.



Bohemian ballet: Adventures in Motion Pictures perform a witty and irreverent new work, Fitzrovia (see Dance)

FILM

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (U): Sumptuous Disney cartoon fairy-tale, blessed with skilled animation and attractive songs that might have sprung from a Broadway musical. Directors, Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise. **Barbican** (071-638 8891) **Curzon West End** (071-439 4805) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

THE BODYGUARD (15): Kevin Costner as the bodyguard who falls for his showbiz charge (Whitney Houston). Jumbled drama, from a 1975 Lawrence Kasdan script. Director, Mick Jackson. **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

CHAPLIN (12): A skilled impersonation by Robert Downey Jr., but Richard Attenborough's bitty biographical epic never penetrates far inside the man. **Odeon Leicester Square** (0426 915683).



Guillaume Depardieu, Anne Brochet in Tous Les Matins

THE CRYING GAME (18): IRA gunman becomes obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend. Bold, powerful Neil Jordan film that falters at the close. Stars Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jaye Davidson, Miranda Richardson. **Curzon Phoenix** (071-240 9661) **MGM Panton Street** (071-930 0631).

DEATH BECOMES HER (PG): Meryl Streep and Goldie Hawn battle to attain eternal youth. Ice-cold black comedy, ultimately swamped by special effects. Stars Bruce Willis; director, Robert Zemeckis. **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

A FEW GOOD MEN (15): Cocky naval lawyer (Tom Cruise) defends marines accused of murder. Devilishly seductive courtroom drama starring Demi Moore, Jack Nicholson; director, Rob Reiner. **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574).

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS (15): Real-estate salesmen fight for their lives. Energetic version of David Mamet's play, though Jack Lemmon goes over the top. Co-starring Al Pacino, Ed Harris; director, James Foley. **MGM Panton Street** (071-930 0631).

HOME ALONE 2: LOST IN NEW YORK (PG): More of the same, with extra crudity and a horrid new streak of sentimentality. With Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern. Director, Chris Columbus. **Barbican** (071-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **West End** (0426 915574) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

HOWARDS END (PG): Absorbing version of E.M. Forster's novel about two colliding families with different ideals. With Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham-Carter. Director, James Ivory. **Curzon Phoenix** (071-867 1044) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772).

HUSBANDS AND WIVES (15): Woody Allen's best film in years, a lacerating tale of collapsing New York marriages. Stars Allen, Mia Farrow, Judy Davis, Liam Neeson, Juliette Lewis. **MGM Panton Street** (071-930 0631) **Odeon Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

INTO THE WEST (PG): Two gypsy children ride a mysterious white horse into western Ireland. Wayward but engaging; good for older children. Stars Gabriel Byrne, Ellen Barkin. Director, Mike Newell. **Odeon Haymarket** (0426 915553).

LABYRINTH OF PASSION: Tiresome melodrama with sex-crazed girls, an Arab princeling, and budgerigars. Raw juvenilia from Pedro Almodóvar, with Cecilia Roth. Made in 1982. **Metro** (071-437 0757).

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (12): Romance and adventure in the American colonies with frontiersman Daniel Day-Lewis. Shallow version of the classic novel; director Michael Mann. With Madeleine Stowe, Russell Means. **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

OF MICE AND MEN (PG): Steinbeck's classic Depression tale of friendship and innocence. John Malkovich as the slow-witted Lennie; director Gary Sinise as his protector. Simple, sturdy and moving. **Curzon West End** (071-439 4805).

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL (U): Successful blend of Dickens's story with Muppet madness. Starring Michael Caine as Scrooge; Kermit as Bob Cratchit. Director, Brian Henson. **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

PETER'S FRIENDS (15): College pals meet up after a decade for a glib mixture of laughter and tears. Kenneth Branagh directs a cast including Emma Thompson, Stephen Fry, Rita Rudner and himself. **Lumière** (071-836 0691) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Plaza** (071-497 9999).

SINGLE WHITE FEMALE (18): New roommate proves a crackpot. Nicely atmospheric, but the crudities mount. Bridget Fonda, Jennifer Jason Leigh; director, Barbet Schroeder. **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279/379 7025) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

SISTER ACT (PG): Whoopi Goldberg hides out in a convent. Contrived but disarming, warm-hearted comedy. Maggie Smith as the Mother Superior. Director, Emile Ardolino. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

SLACKER (15): College-age layabouts in Austin, Texas, vent crazy thoughts on life, the Smurfs and UFOs. Striking debut by film-maker Richard Linklater, with an amateur cast. **Metro** (071-437 0757).

SNEAKERS (12): Technology freaks chase a lethal microchip. Bright, sassy caper comedy with a starry cast (Robert Redford, Sidney Poitier, Dan Aykroyd, Ben Kingsley). Director, Phil Alden Robinson. **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636).

STRICTLY BALLROOM (PG): One dancer's fight to defy the rules of the Australian Ballroom Dancing Federation. Ebullient, intoxicating debut by director Baz Luhrmann. With Paul Mercurio, Tara Morice. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

TOUS LES MATINS DU MONDE (12): Wonderful, melancholy portrait of French Baroque musicians Sainte-Colombe (Jean-Pierre Marielle) and his pupil Marin Marais (Gérard and Guillaume Depardieu). Also starring Anne Brochet; director, Alain Corneau. **Curzon Mayfair** (071-465 8865) **Gate** (071-727 4043) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366).

A WINTER'S TALE (12): A Paris hairdresser's quest for true love. Eric Rohmer near his best: elegant, clear-eyed, realistic. A film laced with magic. Stars Charlotte Very. **Chelsea** (071-351 3742/3743) **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

MUSIC

JAZZ

ORPHY ROBINSON/JAZZ AT THE MALTINGS: The marimba and vibraphone maestro, formerly of the Jazz Warriors, performs fluid compositions with his band Annavas at this New Year celebration. Also on the bill is the increasingly successful pianist Julian Joseph. **Snape Maltings Concert Hall,** Suffolk (0728 453543), tonight, 8pm.



Orphy Robinson (right) and Joe Bashorun of Annavas

JOHN AND ALEC DANKWORTH "GENERATION BAND": In a departure from tradition, the sax player kicks off Ronnie Scott's 1993 season without his Big Band but in the company of his son Alec and young musicians including the gifted Gerard Presencer on trumpet. **Ronnie Scott's,** London W1 (071-439 0747), Mon-next Sat, 8.30pm.

ROCK

SISTER SLEDGE: The disco queens celebrate their 20th anniversary year with a series of live club dates. **The Fridge,** Brixton Hill, London SW2 (071-326 5100), Wed and Fri, 10pm.

BARENAKED LADIES: Following their recent guest appearance with Billy Bragg, the offbeat Canadian band with the fizzy pop sound start a short tour of their own. **Borderline,** Orange Yard, London W1 (071-734 2095), Wed, 8.30pm. **Waterfront,** Norwich (0603 766266), Thurs, 7.30pm. **Moles Club,** Bath (0225 333448), Fri, 9pm.

CLASSICAL

NEW LONDON CONSORT: Philip Pickett and his scholarly band of early music specialists, who can usually be relied on to offer new insights into even the most familiar repertoire, turn their attention to Bach in this concert of Brandenburg concertos 2-6 (see feature, page 13). **Purcell Room,** South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, 8pm.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC: Libor Pešek continues his Mahler cycle with the RLPO with a performance of the Symphony No 6. The programme also includes the British premiere of a new piece by the estimable Judith Weir, entitled *Music, Untangled*. The concert is repeated next Saturday. **Philharmonic Hall,** Hope Street (051-709 3789), Fri, next Sat, 7.30pm.

ANDRÁS SCHIFF: In the first of a series of six January concerts devoted to the piano sonatas of Schubert, the Hungarian pianist plays those in E minor (D566), C major (D840) and A minor (D845). **Wigmore Hall,** Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 2141), Wed, 7.30pm.

RALPH KIRSHBAUM: The distinguished Texas-born cellist performs the complete Bach cello suites, as he did at the same venue in December 1986 and January 1987. **Wigmore Hall** (as above), tonight and Tues, 7.30pm.

OPERA

DON CARLOS: Tim Albery directs Opera North's first production of Verdi's grandest opera, to be performed in Andrew Porter's English translation. The cast includes Patrick Power, Linda McLeod, Claire Powell, John Tomlinson and Anthony Michaels Moore. Paul Daniel conducts. **Grand Theatre,** 46 New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351/440971), Fri, 7pm.

THE ADVENTURES OF MR BROUCEK: English National Opera's new Janáček production has fine performances from Graham Clark, Vivian Tierney and Bonaventura Bottone, beautiful orchestral playing, and exemplary conducting from Sir Charles Mackerras; but David Pountney's staging, piling in joke upon in-joke, arguably suffers from an excess of invention and a reluctance to let this quirky and appealing piece speak for itself. **Coliseum,** St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), Tues, Fri, 7.30pm.

ALCINA: Handel's opera — last seen at Covent Garden in 1962 — is staged by the American director Stephen Wadsworth. Yvonne Kenny heads an impressive cast in the title role. John Fisher, who as music director transformed the fortunes of Venice's La Fenice, conducts. **Royal Opera House,** Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), next performance, Fri Jan 15, 7pm.

VIDEO

EARLY RUSSIAN CINEMA (British Film Institute): Four years ago, pre-1917 Russian cinema was shrouded in fog. Then hidden treasures were uncovered at Pordenone's silent film festival. Now the cream of the crop comes on ten videos including richly decorative and astonishing melodramas from director Evgenii Bauer, Pushkin adaptations and live-action fantasies by puppet animator Starewicz. A hugely rewarding collection. Available from Publications Dept, British Film Institute, 21 Stephen Street, London W1.

UNIVERSAL SOLDIER (Guild, 18): Soldiers killed in Vietnam get turned into robots. Two musclemen (Jan-Claude Van Damme, Dolph Lundgren) for the price of one. No brains though, or wit. Director, Roland Emmerich. 1992.

DANCE

ADVENTURES IN MOTION PICTURES: One of Britain's most popular dance companies presents the London premiere of a new comic ballet, created by the witty and irreverent choreographer Matthew Bourne. Entitled *Fitzrovia*, it pays homage to the "Percys" of Fitzrovia, the outrageous and trendy bohemians of Twenties London. The work is set to music by Percy Grainger and designed by David Manners. *Fitzrovia* is presented in a double bill with a new version of Bourne's *Infernal Galop*, a hilarious and incisive look at our French neighbours. **Lyric Theatre,** King Street, London W6 (081-741 2311), from Wed until Jan 16, 7.45pm.

THE DREAM/TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER: An Ashton double bill for the holiday season at the Royal Ballet: *The Dream* is a delightful and poetic distillation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and one of the loveliest ballets around; *Beatrix Potter* was a popular 1971 film, here being given its first live performance in a new stage adaptation which is weak on dance interest but strong on visuals. Presented in repertoire with Ashton's fine full-length *Cinderella*. **Royal Opera House,** Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066). *The Dream* bill: today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Tues, Wed, 7.30pm. *Cinderella:* Mon, 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thurs, Fri, 7.30pm.

THE NUTCRACKER: Ben Stevenson's production for the English National Ballet, marking the centenary of Tchaikovsky's perennial favourite, is certainly an improvement on the company's previous *Nutcracker* and it does at least have attractive designs by Desmond Heeley. **Festival Hall,** South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon-Fri, 7.30pm.

BOOKINGS

AMSTERDAM BAROQUE ORCHESTRA: The orchestra under the dynamic direction of Ton Koopman will perform Bach's Brandenburg Concertos (Nos 2-6) in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge and in Birmingham as part of its European tour. **Arts Theatre,** 6 St Edward's Passage, Cambridge (0223 352000), Jan 30. **Symphony Hall,** Broad Street, Birmingham (021-212 3333), Jan 31.



Baroque specialist: Ton Koopman tours Europe

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: The company has two new productions in its repertoire: Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* with Anne Evans and Jeffrey Lawton in the title roles, produced and designed by Yannis Kokkos, followed by Donizetti's *La Favorita* set in medieval Spain. The spring season also includes revivals of Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* and opens with Puccini's *La Bohème* at the New Theatre, Cardiff on Monday, February 1, followed by a nationwide tour. **New Theatre,** Park Place, Cardiff (0222 394844), Feb 1-Mar 6. **Hippodrome,** St Augustine's Parade, Bristol (0272 299444), Mar 9-13. **Empire,** Lime Street, Liverpool (051-709 1555), Mar 16-20. **Mayflower Theatre,** Commercial Road, Southampton (0703 229771), Mar 23-27. **Apollo Theatre,** George Street, Oxford (0685 244544), Mar 30-Apr 3. **Grand Theatre,** Singleton Street, Swansea (0792 475715), Apr 6-10. **Hippodrome,** Hurst Street, Birmingham (021-622 7486), Apr 13-17. **Royal Opera House,** Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), Apr 19-24.

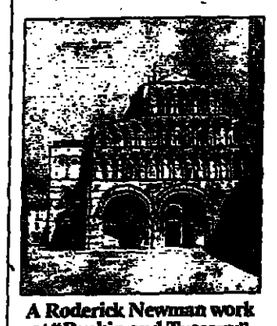
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: Oscar Wilde's classic comedy billed in 1895 as "a trivial comedy for serious people", opens at the Aldwych Theatre on Monday, February 22. The production directed by Nicholas Hytner and designed by Bob Crowley, also working together on the National Theatre's *Carousel*, has Maggie Smith as Lady Bracknell, Alex Jennings as John Worthing and Richard E. Grant as Algernon Moncrieff. **Aldwych,** London WC2 (071-836 6404).

INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: As part of their second European tour since Raymond Leppard became musical director, the orchestra will be visiting London and Birmingham. In London the programme will include William Schuman's *New England Triptych* and Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1 with Dmitry Sitkovetsky as soloist. In Birmingham the orchestra will play Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 2, and symphonies by Schubert and R. Schumann. **Barbican,** Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), Apr 30. **Symphony Hall,** Birmingham (as above), May 1.

EXHIBITIONS

RUSKIN AND TUSCANY: Ruskin's most famous Italian connection, both as critic and as artist, was with Venice. But his interest in Tuscany was hardly less significant, and a large proportion of the works he gathered together for his Sheffield Museum were connected with it. This show, drawn from the Sheffield archives and other British collections, consists of some 270 items, including drawings by Ruskin himself, work commissioned by him, books, photographs and documents of all kinds illustrating Ruskin's view that the roots of much later European art and architecture lay in Tuscany. **Accademia Italiana,** 24 Rutland Gate, London SW7 (071-225 3474). Tues-Sat, 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun, 2-5.30pm, Fri-Feb 7.

TWELVE STARS: This touring show, part of the European Arts Festival, consists of 25 paintings selected from the permanent collection of the European Parliament, including 14 recent acquisitions by British artists. Most of the international choices incline to abstraction. Among the painters proper, Peter Doig stands out by virtue of his individual vision. **Concourse Gallery,** Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 4141). Mon-Sat, 10am-7.30pm, Sun, midday-7.30pm, until Jan 17.



A Roderick Newman work at "Ruskin and Tuscany"

VISUALISING MASCULINITIES: The theme of this small show (13 works in total) is the way artists from the mid-19th century up to today have used the male body in art. The choice includes Millais, Epstein, Pollock and Bacon. **Tate Gallery,** Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, until June 6.

ECCO ROMA: This exhibition gathers from the gallery's own collection a series of tributes to the enduring magic of the Eternal City, including works made in Rome by such visitors as Brueghel, Elsheimer, Poussin and others, as well as locals such as Raphael and Piranesi. Scots Ramsay, Wilkie, David Roberts and Alexander Runciman also stand out. **National Gallery of Scotland,** The Mound, Edinburgh (031-556 8921). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 11am-6pm, until Jan 31 (closed today and Jan 4).

SAMSUNG GALLERY OF KOREAN ART: This imposing new gallery provides a fitting showplace for the museum's extensive collection of Korean artefacts. This amounts now to more than 600 pieces, beginning in the 5th century and recently augmented by purchases of contemporary Korean art, including a work by Lee Manbong. **Victoria & Albert Museum,** Cromwell Road, London, SW7 (071-589 6371). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2.30-5.50pm.

TIM HEAD: Not so much has been heard of Tim Head since he represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 1980, but he has continued to work in his chosen fields of installation, paintings and photography. For this, his most extensive show yet in London, the Lower Gallery has been painted sky-blue and astroturfed to house a series of ink-jet pictures, *Thirteen Most Wanted*. **Whitechapel Art Gallery,** Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 (071-377 0107). Tues-Sun, 11am-5pm. Wed to 8pm), until Feb 28.

SHELLEY: AN INEFFECTUAL ANGEL? A belated London celebration of the bicentenary of Shelley's birth in 1792, this show includes portraits and other Shelley-related art as well as manuscripts, annotated books, rare first editions, his last letter and even, rather alarmingly, fragments of his ashes. **British Library Galleries,** Great Russell Street, London, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Feb 28.

SAMUEL PALMER: The British Museum has an unrivalled collection of prints by Palmer, as well as related drawings and some original plates. Included in this show are all his prints, which continue to follow the visionary gleam right to the end of his long life. Palmer's illustrations to his own translation of Virgil's *Eclogues* are also on show, along with a newly attributed monotype. **British Museum,** Great Russell Street, London, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Jan 24.

EDVARD MUNCH: This important show is devoted to the paintings, drawings and prints made by Munch in the 1890s in connection with his great autobiographical scheme *The Frieze of Life*. Some 85 pieces are drawn from three great Norwegian collections, mostly never seen before in Britain. **National Gallery,** Trafalgar Square, London, WC2 (071-839 3321). Daily, 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm).

WORD-WATCHING

SIMOLEON
(c) A United States dollar, also *samoleon*, 1896-, origin uncertain, perhaps modelled on the French coin, *napoleon*. D. Anthony, 1977: "I bet the limit, five thousand simoleons."

JUBE
(a) An open water-course in Iranian cities, from the Persian word: "By every pavement ran the jube, a stream of water which had doubtless been clean at the top of the town but did not remain so for long." "Tehran, its streets vivid with sidewalk hawkers, the flow of filth in the jubes."

MORGANITE
(b) A pink lithian variety of beryl which is prized as a gem, eponym from the nomenclator John Pierpont Morgan (1837-1913), US financier: "Dr George Kunz described some new and remarkable gems which had been cut from a rose-coloured beryl found in Madagascar. He proposed the name morganite for them in honor of Mr John Pierpont Morgan of New York City."

RACLETTE
(a) A fondue-like dish consisting of cheese melted before an open fire, scraped on to the plate, and served with potatoes, from the French *raclette* a scraper: "Raclette is a speciality of the Valais. A whole side of cheese is grilled in front of a brazier, the sizzling bits scraped on to your plate, served with potatoes boiled in their skins and gherkins."

LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW '93
EARLS COURT
JAN 7th-17th
Powerboats, Narrowboats, Yachts and Dinghies. Fashion shows, windsurfing, waterskiing, engines, and equipment. Restaurants and bars. And for the first time, a Spectacular action-packed Regatta, with lots to do and see. There's never been anything like it!
You should see what you've been missing.
CHILDREN FREE! Two under-16's admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

EVENINGS OUT

BARONESS BLACKSTONE
MASTER OF BIRKBECK COLLEGE, LONDON



"I'm very much looking forward to seeing the new production of *Alcina* at Covent Garden. It is the first time it has been done there for 30 years, and, of course, it was the first opera in which Joan Sutherland made her mark. On a quite different tack, I would like to see the Edvard Munch exhibition at the National Gallery in London especially as I have not seen a major exhibition of his before. His work is rather depressing in some ways, but very often it is also moving. Finally, I am looking forward immensely to seeing the Ashton double bill by the Royal Ballet, comprising *The Dream* and *Tales of Beatrix Potter*. The latter was done as a film in the early 1970s, but it has never been danced on stage. It has wonderful costumes and some lovely choreography. I can't think of a better family outing over the Christmas and New Year period."

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical music and Opera:** Ian Brunskill; **Rock and Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne; **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **Video:** Geoff Brown; **Bookings:** Heather Alston

هكذا من الأصل

Gabriel blows a mean horn for the barnyard chorus

As I write, I am removing my trousers smeared with muck, disposing of the sweater that reeks of wet sheep, and discarding my cap, which, as I was bending to unblock a drain, fell into a lake of horse piddle.

Stinking farmer's clothes are not suitable garments in which to write a theatrical review, so for the next few hundred words imagine me in a fragrant white silk scarf and evening suit, possibly carrying a cane with a silver handle. It is quite a feat of the imagination, but necessary if I am to give you a flavour of the last major theatrical event of 1992: our farmyard nativity play.

Luck, broadly speaking, was on our side. The soprano did not fall off the strawstack as, without so much as a wobble (creditable since she was 30ft in the air and the stack is a bit on the rickety side), she sang all the verses of "In the bleak mid-winter". This occupied those precious few moments between the setting of the sun (after which we dared not let the unaccustomed audience stumble for their seats on bales of straw) and the falling of total darkness (before which we dared not start the action). She did not even allow herself a giggle as the heifer chimed in with an ear-splitting moo-oo on the higher notes. The audience was not only transfixed by this celestial vision of a beautiful girl singing from the darkening clouds, but hemmed in on all sides by carthorses, cattle and sheep. Heaven above and hell all around them.



The narrator climbed on to a farm wagon and the story unfolded. The innkeeper (ten years old) gave much passion to his part, inspired by sheer delight at being able to tell his younger sister (the Virgin Mary) there was no room for her at his inn; no way. The massive brown frame of one of our Suffolk Punches lumbered from the darkness and stole the scene as he hauled Mary and Joseph to their stable. The shepherds piped, and were sore amazed (as well they might be) by the apparition of our teenage Gabriel on the stack with a trumpet, apparently playing a cross between the Coronation Fanfare and the Last Post.

But while we all sang "The first Nowell", an unseen hitch occurred. Derek the horseman, who has probably never taken part in a theatrical event in his life, was



supposed to take the horse and cart round the back, unhitch the horse and bring him in again bedecked with gold and gifts as the Three Kings' camel. It is fortunate that Derek is a man of even temper, for at this point he and his camel could easily have got the hump. The only way round the farm buildings was blocked by a latecomer's car; Derek had to haul the reluctant carthorse at speed down the lane so that he could cut across the field and still make it in time for the Three Kings' entrance. My wife spotted his dilemma and signalled the accordion player to do more verses. The narrator intoned, "... and far away, in the East, three Wise Men ..." as the lumbering horse was forced into a near-gallop down the lane, steel shoes clattering.

Gabriel socked us another unusual fanfare, and by the time we had all got through "We Three Kings", with the baby in the real manger, the cow mooing, the sheep bleating and the Suffolk Punch standing magnificently to attention, it is fair to say there was not a dry eye in the house.

"The true spirit of Christmas," wept one woman as she stumbled through the straw in the darkness. "Moving, very, very moving," muttered another. An elderly but vital woman of 93 announced she was the great-grandmother of Jenny, who had sung on the strawstack, and that four generations of her family had been there to see it.

The show was profitable, too. We raised £250 (for the British Red Cross), but I seem to have done all right, too. To spare our visitors a slow drowning in mud, a couple of local farmers donated straw to spread over the yard. It is still there and is ready for the sheep, who will shortly be coming in to lamb. Without 100 pairs of feet to kick it around, it would have been a sweaty job to spread it.

Now I am planning another such event. Perhaps at Easter, we shall do the Stations of the Cross. I shall ask the audience to each carry a stake and process around the farm. Every time the script demands it, they will hammer it religiously into the ground. If it should so happen that they follow the line of the new fence I am planning, so much the better.

Beware of the plant snatchers

Francesca Greenoak reports on the growing scourge of garden thefts, and what precautions should be taken

Kleptomania among gardeners is not new. In the years after the first world war, Annie Rogers, a tutor at St Hugh's College, Oxford, and the practical talent behind the college gardens, kept a list of places where cuttings could be filched. Respected as she was, a close watch was always kept on her when she visited other gardens, armed with her umbrella which served as a receptacle for the illicit cuttings.

The controversy about such activities continues, with some garden owners complaining that shrubs are ruined by renegade cuttings collectors, and others turning a blind eye.

However, with increased interest and investment in gardens, thefts have become less innocent, growing in scale and value. A few weeks ago, the beautiful 19th-century bronze statue of Joan of Arc, sculpted by Princesse Marie d'Orléans, who was a frequent visitor to Cliveden in Buckinghamshire, was stolen from the National Trust garden there.

All manner of items are vulnerable: Victorian lantern cloches disappear from kitchen gardens, urns from terraces, and ride-on lawnmowers are ridden away into the sunset while their owners are indoors having a quick coffee.

Even large pieces of garden statuary, which require heavy machinery for their removal, are at risk. One of the saddest disappearances was the Cupid in Elizabeth MacLeod Matthews's white garden at Chenies, near Amersham, Buckinghamshire, which had been secured by a strong chain after a previous attempted burglary.

Owners of historic houses have become so concerned by thefts that Sir Thomas Ingleby of Ripley Castle and gardens, North Yorkshire, has set up an association with a "stately homes hotline", through which subscribers can report thefts immediately in the hope of recovering the booty.

> The worst theft was of the National Collection of Pseudopanax trees and shrubs

Large gardens open to the public are most at risk, but even smaller gardens, open to visitors only occasionally for charity, have been raided. At the Chelsea Flower Show last year, a survey by the local police showed that 180 of the 1,000 people asked had suffered some kind of garden theft.

The police suggest various precautions: external lighting, adequate fencing, prickly hedges, locks and alarms on garden sheds. Garden items can be security marked, and given a bright label to declare that they are. There are also devices for individual items, such as ignition inhibitors for machinery, and ground anchors for large mowers.

To avoid plants being taken, some head gardeners will now plant only large shrubs, rather than risking smaller specimens.

PETER TREVNOR



Lost love: Elizabeth MacLeod Matthew with the Cupid statue that was stolen from her home at Chenies, Buckinghamshire, despite being secured with a heavy chain

It is common for miscellaneous plants, such as roses or pretty herbaceous varieties, to disappear from front gardens, but certain rare plants are being stolen to order. The worst case was the theft of the entire National Collection of the unusual Pseudopanax trees and shrubs from Ventnor Botanic Garden, Isle of Wight last September.

Apart from improving security, there is not much you can do about plant theft, though it is possible to take out insurance to cover it. My resolution this year is to check our house insurance to make sure we are covered for garden thefts — even spades, forks and secateurs add up to surprisingly large sums.

Garden theft is undoubtedly serious, but I couldn't help being amused by a story told by Edmund de Rothschild, of the Exbury Gardens in Hampshire. Walking in his woodland one day, he came across someone scrabbling around the base of one of his rare rhododendrons. The intruder was unabashed, and displayed a branch that he had pegged down to the soil several years earlier, which had now successfully layered and made roots so that he could cut it away to re-plant in his own garden.

BEST BUYS

LILY of the valley crowns can be planted out now in partially shaded, moderately fertile soil. Set the crowns with the pointed ends upwards and just below the surface. Mulch with leaf-mould or compost and make sure they are well watered. Varieties available include variegated and double-flowered forms, but the plain green species is as pretty and beautifully scented as any. In a good spot, they will spread by means of their creeping rhizomes.



Plant out now: lily of the valley

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Dig compost and manure into borders and vegetable plots (to nourish for next year's brassicas and peas).*
- *Prune apple and pear trees.*
- *Begin to take cuttings of late-flowering chrysanthemums.*
- *Re-pot any greenhouse plants that have congested, pot-bound roots.*
- *Sow streptocarpus browallia and calceolaria in a propagator set at 13C/55F.*

Feather report

Wild music of swan lake

One of the most spectacular assemblies of birds to be seen at the moment is on the Ouse Washes, on the Cambridgeshire-Norfolk border. More than 4,000 wild swans are wintering on this flooded plain between the two great drainage canals of the Fens — the Old Bedford and the Hundred Foot rivers.

Over the water and the fields around, the sky is filled all day with the white wings of swans. There are three species present: about 3,500 Bewick's swans from the Russian tundra, 700 whooper swans mainly from Iceland, and a number of British mute swans.

The deep, siren-like note made by the mute swans' wings as they fly can be heard up to a mile away. The northern swans fly more quietly, but the whoopers trumpet as they go: their brassy double cry always sounds to me like an Olympian cuckoo-call. The Bewick's swans also honk in the air, but their more characteristic note is a musical babble as they float on the water together.

The mute swans are easily picked out by their orange beaks. Both of the visiting species have black and yellow beaks, but the two species are not difficult to distinguish. The whooper swans are the same size as mute swans, and noticeably larger than the neat, rather "goosey" Bewicks. The whoopers also have distinctly more yellow at the base of their beak than the Bewicks.

They can all be watched at close quarters from a huge, glass-fronted hide built at Welney by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, which owns a large stretch of the Washes and has managed its waters so as to make it an attractive refuge for the wild swans.

Observers have discovered that the beak markings, especially of the Bewick's swans, differ considerably from bird to bird. Many of the swans return each year, and most of these are recognised as individuals by the Welney watchers. They have been given names such as Kon and Tiki or Swan and Vesta — the pairs generally stay together for the whole of their lives — and visitors to the hide find a beak chart there which enables them to pick out the individual birds.

The swans are out in the arable fields for much of the day. It can be very bleak in mid-winter, but they find plenty of potatoes left by the harvesters, and particularly like them if they have been frozen and turned soft.

There is little other bird life in these fields, but along the rivers there are bushes and trees for small birds to shelter in, and occasionally a sparrowhawk or even a wintering merlin sweeps along the banks.

The swans are fed twice a day by the trust in the lagoon in front of the hide. They are thrown small quantities of waste potatoes and grain from a wheelbarrow. The first feed is by daylight at 3.30pm. There is a bigger feed, under floodlights, at 6.30pm, when all the swans have come back to roost.

It is amazing — even slightly dismaying — to see all these rare, wild creatures hustling each other to get at the food, unaware of their human audience.

The many ducks on the lagoon also join in, the pochards and the black and white tufted ducks, in particular, darting in and out, dodging the swans' beaks and diving for food as it goes under. Shyer ducks, such as pintails and shovelers, join in on the edge.

This winter the Washes are heavily flooded, and in the morning groups of ducks and swans cover the water. Many of the pairs of Bewicks have brought their cygnets with them, and they paddle about together in family groups.

The other common bird on the Washes every winter is the wigeon. There can be up to 10,000 of these ducks in the area, and at the moment they are lining the river banks in a small army. They add another distinct scrap of music to the chorus on the water — a piping "whee-oo" that cuts with a silvery timbre through the air.

The Bewicks will be the first to leave, at the end of February — they have a long way to go, almost 2,500 miles, to their remote breeding grounds around the Kara Sea in Russia. The whoopers leave a month or so later. By spring, as the waters go down and the Washes revert to swampy grazing land, other birds, such as yellow wagtails, reed and sedge warblers, redshanks, and even black-tailed godwits, will take over.

The feeds are open to the public. In the afternoon you can go without booking but, for the floodlit feed, it is necessary to book in advance from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Pintail House, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE14 9TN (0353 860711). It is also possible to stay overnight in the trust's Wigeon House, next door. That is the best thing to do, so that under the broad skies of the Fens you can watch the swans' short wintry day pass hour by hour.

DERWENT MAY



Jacques

Trumpeting: the whooper swan makes a distinctive cry in flight

● **What's about:** *Birders — courtship display of drakes and ducks. Twitchers — pied-billed grebe at Druridge Pools, Northumberland. White-throated sparrow at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. Ferruginous duck at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. Details from Birdline, 0898 700222.*

Rabbit with an enduring tale

Beatrix Potter's best loved character celebrates his 100th birthday this year

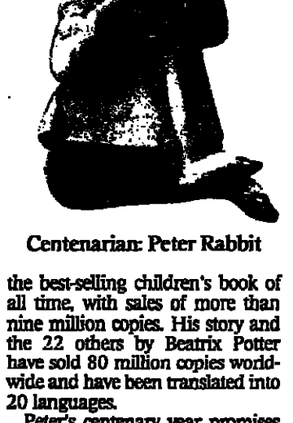
PETER, the world's most famous rabbit, is 100 years old this year. It was in 1893 that Beatrix Potter, on holiday in Scotland, first wrote about the rabbit whose father was put in a pie by Mr McGregor. She told the story of Peter in a letter to five-year-old Noel Moore, the young son of her last governess, as he recovered from a long illness.

As a child, Miss Potter had little contact with her parents, both accomplished artists, and spent most of her free time sketching and drawing her menagerie of wild animals. Even after her formal education was complete, she stayed at home with her parents, occupying herself with the serious study of natural history.

In 1891, she was photographed out walking with her pet rabbit, secured on a long length of string. Two years later, aged 27, when she was on holiday in Scotland, she wrote to Noel Moore to cheer him up after his illness: "My dear Noel, I don't know what to write to you, so I shall tell you a story ...

Eight years passed until, in December 1901, Miss Potter decided to pay for publication of 250 copies of the Peter Rabbit story, which had been rejected by at least six publishers. She gave away many copies as Christmas presents, selling the rest for 1s 2d each, and the book was such a success that she ordered a reprint of 200.

Today Peter, inseparable from his blue jacket, is the world's favourite rabbit. In the United States his tale is acknowledged as



Centenarian: Peter Rabbit

the best-selling children's book of all time, with sales of more than nine million copies. His story and the 22 others by Beatrix Potter have sold 80 million copies worldwide and have been translated into 20 languages.

Peter's centenary year promises to be something special. Following his pre-Christmas television launch, when the first of six half-hourly episodes of the first animated version of *The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends* was shown, he has a hectic schedule.

On January 15, an exhibition opens at The Museum of the Moving Image on London's South Bank, exploring the way in which the original delicate watercolours of Beatrix Potter were faithfully translated to film and video.

On the same day, a special Peter Rabbit exhibition opens at The World of Beatrix Potter in Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria, a few miles from where the most celebrated children's artist of the century spent the last 30 years of her life, at Hill Top farm.

The secret of Peter's success was explained by the author herself. In July 1936, at the age of 70, she wrote to some young fans in America: "I think that story was good because I wrote it for a real little boy."

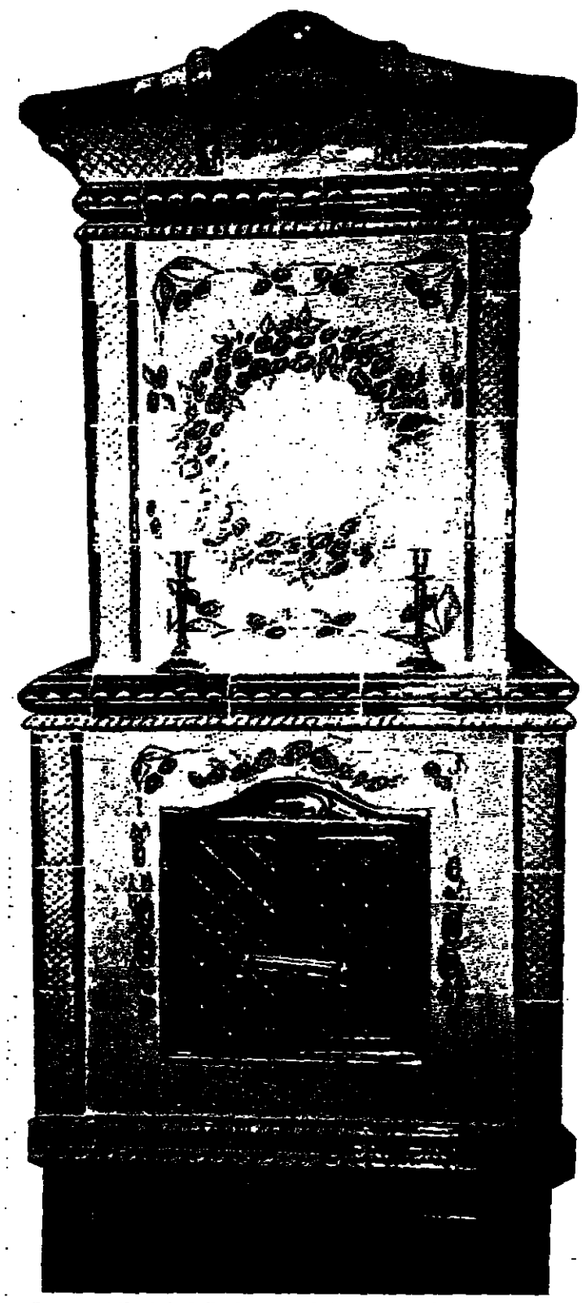
LYNNE GREENWOOD

● The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends *at the Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank, London (071-928 3535), Jan 15 - end of April.* The World of Beatrix Potter *exhibition at Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria (05394 88444), from Jan 15 through 1993.*

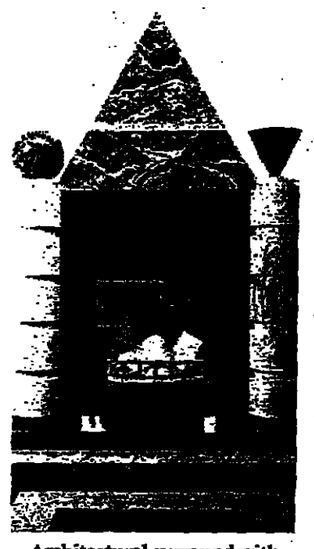
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Nicole Swengley warms to energy-efficient wood-burning stoves from Scandinavia, and gas fires that do not pretend to be coal

Home is where the heat is



Jansen "Nicolai" fully decorated tiled stove with cast-brass lattice-work door and glass interior door to show fire burning inside. It is 215cm tall and costs £4,906 plus installation fee of about £500. Details from the Ceramic Stove Company, 387 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 2BS (0865 748652).



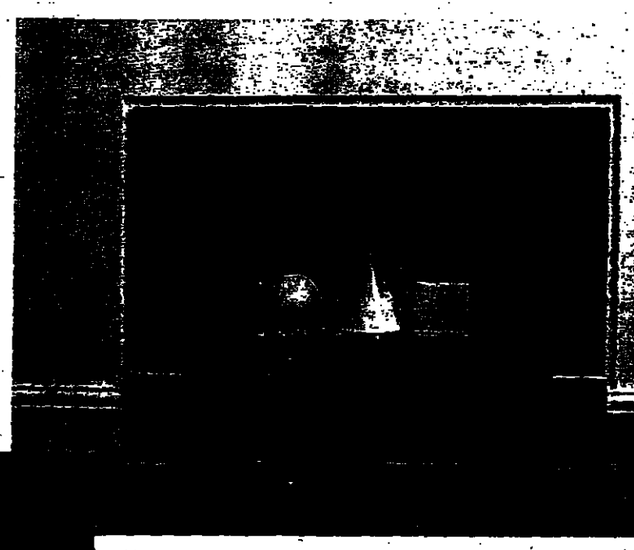
Architectural surround with granite fireback, £1,469; Plato grate and "Geologs", £752. Installation about £200. From The Platonic Fireplace Company, 20 British Grove, London W4 (081-741 9721).

Energy-saving ceramic tiled stoves have given Scandinavian homes a warm glow for centuries. Now they are available in Britain.

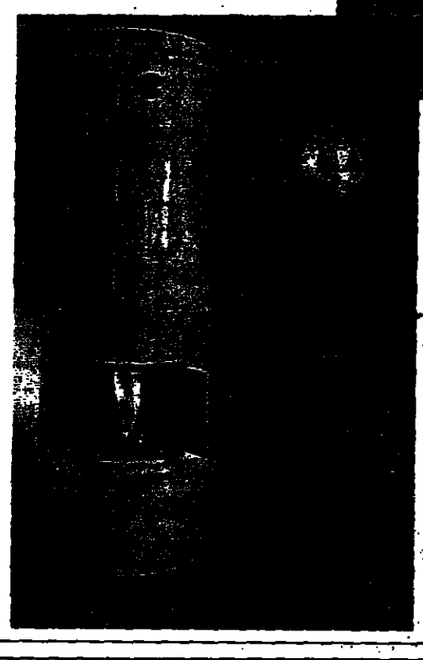
Even the Department of Energy is impressed by their clean-air appeal, approving them for use throughout the country.

Ceramic stoves are clean burning and highly efficient because of the very high temperatures — about 1,000C — at which seasoned wood is burned. They need only burn for a few hours a day because the energy produced and stored in the stone above the combustion chamber is radiated into the house for as much as 24 hours.

Two loads of wood — about 15kg — are needed a day, according to Nick Hills, whose Ceramic Stove Company imports Jansen "Juliet" stoves from Norway. He estimates that a small house can be heated with about 7cu m of wood a year. Since it takes millions of years for coal to form, the 11 years needed to replace pine or birch trees make wood a comparatively renewable energy source.

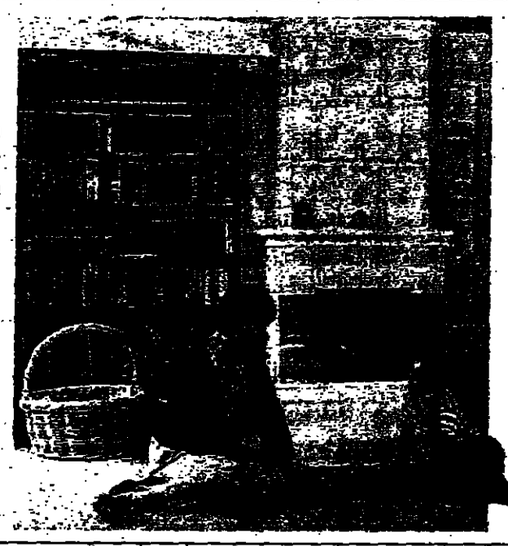






Henry Harrison's Platonic fires use "Geologs" — hollow fireproof ceramic shapes, such as spheres, cubes and tetrahedrons, set in geometric grates with embers and gas controls. Three designs are available from £752, with installation at about £200. Details from The Platonic Fireplace Company.

Jansen "Juliet" stove (left) with hand-painted floral tiles stands 210cm tall and weighs just over one metric ton. It costs £8,289 plus installation at about £500. Stoves are individually priced and a version with plain tiles costs £4,705 plus installation. From The Ceramic Stove Company.



Cronspisen "Sapphire" stove with traditional glazed tiles stands 235cm tall, weighs 1,800kg and costs £3,300 plus about £500 for installation. A smaller, 175cm-tall "Sapphire" costs £2,700. Details from Kyte Marketing, Unit One, Golden Acres, Woolfords Lane, Elstead, Surrey GU8 6LL (0252 702351).

Cronspisen "Manor" stove with traditional glazed tiles measures 2.35m high x 98cm width x 61cm deep and weighs 1,800kg. Tiles are available with blue, pink or green floral decoration. The stove costs £3,400 plus about £500 for installation. Details from Kyte Marketing

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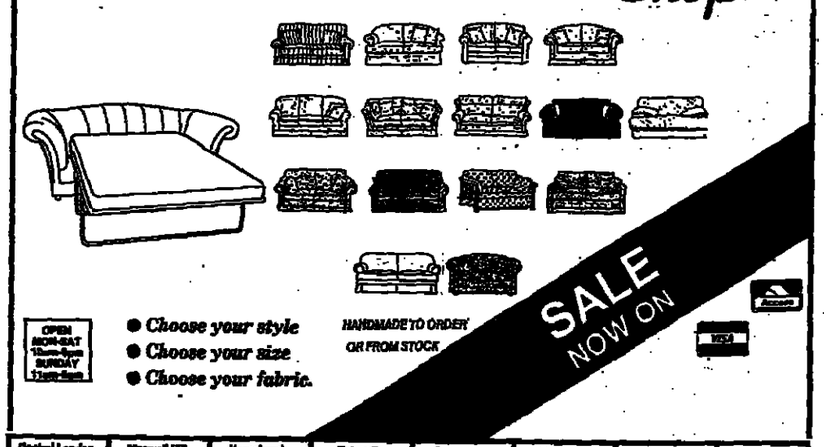
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The light of hope shines on despair

Amid Dagenham's urban devastation, **Ruth Gledhill** finds a community of faith



DAGENHAM, in Essex, spiritual birthplace of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, inspires almost indescribable depression at first sight. Inadequate signposts left me lost in the middle of a run-down housing estate, with a scrawny mongrel the only living creature in sight. Through the graffiti-marked towers I spotted the corner of an oldish-looking building. It turned out to be the old rectory, now the headquarters of a transport company, and one of three remaining old buildings in the centre of Dagenham. The other two are the parish church and the Cross Keys pub next door.

St Peter's and St Paul's, more commonly known as Dagenham Parish Church, must be one of the few historic churches in England not defaced by a bright Christian mural on its tower. In such a loveless landscape the words, "God so loved the world that he gave his only son", from St John's Gospel, offer much-needed crumbs of comfort. Tired Ford cars, and one Skoda, populated the church car park. In the empty landscape scarred by long-gone town planners, I wondered where all the human beings had gone. It turned out they were nearly all in the packed and friendly church. The environment improved audibly when the peal of six bells rang out through the chilly morning air.

Dr Carey is a friend of the rector, the Rev Deryck Spratley, and spent much of his early life as a regular church member. The church has remained in the traditional evangelical mould which inspired the archbishop. Mr Spratley allows women church members to lead worship but opposes women priests, citing the New Testament in support of his belief that man is the head of the woman. For the morning service he wore the traditional Anglican vestments of black cassock, white surplice, black preacher's scarf and a blue hood to denote his theological college, Oak Hill in Southgate, north London.

This is the heart of Essex, but I saw not a single example of the much-lampooned "Essex man". In church I sat next to a beautiful, dark-haired young woman with a labrador at her feet. She explained she had gone totally blind at the age of ten, when her retinas became detached overnight. The church does not specialise in the healing ministry, but there were other sick people there, scattered among the stalwart middle-aged women who make up the bulk of traditional church-going England. The impression, with light streaming through the high arched windows, was of hope and inspiration staying ahead, just, of the surrounding despair.

Unemployment has devastated the congregation, cutting church income drastically. It is clear that the parish is facing serious debts for the first time in its history, which is long. Parts of the church date from the 12th century, when it was built to cater for the needs of the tenants of Barking Abbey, the local fishermen, woodsmen and farm workers. The church was plundered during the Reformation but survived until the second Sunday in Advent, 1800, when the congregation was waiting in the churchyard for the vicar, who was late. While they were waiting, the tower fell on to the nave and destroyed the roof, porch, gallery and pews. No lives were lost, but all except the chancel and north chapel had to be rebuilt.

In Advent this year, a blow comparable in its psychological impact fell on the congregation, when Mr Spratley shared his doubts about women priests. He is still considering his future as a priest. "It seems to me such a contradiction of what scripture says," he said. "It is a possibility that I will leave the ministry."

The congregation at Dagenham will do everything in its power to persuade him otherwise. Mr Spratley is like one of Dickens's benign characters, with a short, grey and silver whiskery beard, and eyes that twinkle behind large glasses. Women regularly lead worship at Dagenham, so his doubts cannot be dismissed as mere chauvinism dressed up as scripture. Under his leadership, the church has strengthened. In a matter-of-fact manner, he announced the remarkable news that the 300 shrubs planted in the graveyard were growing well. In an area where vandalism is endemic, it was worthy of note that so many shrubs had survived, he explained. And while most churches suffer from inadequate heating, the problem at Dagenham is that the electric pipes under the pews are too hot. Careless adults can burn their legs on them and crawling children have been known to burn their heads. A sign announces that the heating is now turned off in the areas where children sit.

As we waited for morning prayer to begin, gospel songs were piped in through an impressive sound system. But for the service we switched to organ accompaniment, apart from a brief interlude from a guitarist. We sang songs from *Mission Praise*, the hymn book compiled for the Billy Graham missions to Britain. In the modern evangelical style one or two worshippers raised their hands in the air, but most were content to sing their hearts out, as if to sing their troubles away.

One such trouble is drug abuse. In 1985, Mr Spratley conducted the funerals of four young men who died as a result of drug abuse, all in the space of six weeks. Two were brothers, and soon he was conducting the funeral of their mother. Made desperate by the horror and extremity of what he saw around him, Mr Spratley founded Daybreak, a drug counselling service, funded by the Church Urban Fund and Barking and Dagenham council. His friend, Dr Carey, agreed to become patron. Mr Spratley believes no human situation is beyond God's power to redeem, and he disagreed that it must be hard work, even for God, in Dagenham. "There is very little self-esteem. I believe the Christian Gospel is the answer. God loves people. He loves the people around here as much as any."

In his sermon, a strong testimony to which the congregation, children included, listened with rapt attention, he spoke of light and faith amid the darkness. "Maybe there is a time when God cannot be found, but there is never a time when God cannot be trusted," he said.

● *Church has crèche, house and fellowship groups. Sunday services: 11am family service, 6.30pm evening worship; plus Holy Communion at 6.30pm first and third Sundays of the month, at 8am on second Sunday, at 11am on fourth Sunday and noon on fifth Sunday.*



Benign: the Rev Deryk Spratley is a traditional evangelical

Dagenham Parish Church, Church Lane, Dagenham, Essex (081-592 1339).

TEAM RECTOR: The Rev Deryck Spratley
SERMON: Determinedly evangelical, strong.★★★
ARCHITECTURE: Charming and cheerful mixture with medieval feel.★★★
LITURGY: Combination of modern and traditional. Family worship based on liturgy by the Church Pastoral Aid Society.★★
AFTER SERVICE CARE: Coffee, tea and biscuits after the service with friendly church staff and members.★★★★

★ stars are awarded up to a maximum of five.

TED BATH



Service with a smile: despite its bleak surroundings, the church has a warm and friendly air

Dinner and sympathy with the Chancellor

Alan Coren

THE miasma so far: *Last week, we heard how a poor sap attempted to buy a portable telephone from the Oxford Street BT shop but was thwarted in his ambition by a credit-checking company called Equifax, who told BT that he could not be trusted to pay phone bills to Call Connect/Cellnet Lifetime service, BT's partners in bloodsucking. This enraged the poor sap, who had just furnished BT with a huge dossier of personal information showing that he was not only a rich sap but a credit-worthy one, not the least significant proof of this being that his two domestic phone lines had, over the past 30 years, bought BT a steam yacht in quarterly instalments paid impeccably on time. None of this counted. The Equifax computer had something on him. It would not tell him what it was unless he applied to Glasgow in writing, enclosing a cheque for its fee, whereupon it would bow to the Consumer Credit Act and reply within seven days. Now boggle on . . .*



As far as Equifax was concerned, the sap was still someone to whom it would be unwise to lend five bob till Friday

The day after the sap had been shown the door, BT rang him to say that they had just discovered who he was, and if he cared to return to their Oxford Street premises, a phone-giving service would be held in celebration of the sap's life. Though they did not go into detail, something in their voice suggested to the sap that the King's College choir would be on hand to sing *Who's Sorry Now?* while Michelle Pfeiffer shimmied in with a velvet cushion bearing a 22-carat cellphone; but in the event the whole thing was in a minor, though no less apologetic, key.

When BT said they had discovered who he was, they did not of course mean that the Equifax computer had told them that a terrible mistake had been made, merely that it had been borne in upon them that the sap had access to newspaper columns which might do the BT balance-sheet a serious mischief. As far as Equifax was concerned, the sap was still someone to whom it would be unwise to lend five bob till Friday, but BT were prepared to ignore this judgment rather than risk the public raspberries of an incensed hack.

So the sap went home with his daughter's Christmas present, and set about sorting out Equifax, because, clearly, the matter could not rest there. A blot on the fiduciary escutcheon, if not expunged, could cause far worse damage than mere public humiliation and an unbought telephone: the sap saw himself, for example, mugged in Central Park, ported to Mount Zion hospital and, the brain-surgeon having decided to check on the sap's ability to pay before he even scrubbed up, buried on Boot Hill in an unmarked grave.

Thus, last week, we learnt how, via the financial investigator Tony Hetherington, access was gained to a number of credit-checking computers, all of which reported the sap to be an exemplary bet. There was, furthermore, nothing derogatory against his house, which, as we also learnt, may sometimes discredit its owner if it has been up to something without its owner's knowledge. Equifax alone thought differently, but the Equifax file remained unpenetrated; until, that is, the sap (having written to Equifax for his file, but being impatient of waiting seven working days), contacted another chum, this time one who worked deep in the bowels of Equifax's client, Call Connect.

This mole soon availed the sap of the information that what Equifax had against him was late payment of a credit card bill and television rental account. Which the sap thought odd, because (a) he happened to know not only that 70 per cent of Access card-holders pay late, thereby allowing Access to levy an APR that did their profitability no harm at all, but also that Access, quite properly, did not shop a defaulter to any credit-checking agency without first warning the miscreant that that was what they would do unless he coughed up, and (b) that the non-settlement of the TV rent went back to a 1982 row over the quality of non-service the sap had been getting, for which the rental company had subsequently apologised. Could this truly be enough to justify leaving the sap to die in a New York gutter?

He doubled-checked by telephoning Access, who confirmed that he had held their card for 20 years without incurring anything but their warm gratitude, and that their records consequently showed that no information on him had ever been made available (with their knowledge) to any credit-checking agency. They also found it as odd as the victim himself had found it that BT had seen fit to both inconvenience and humiliate the sap by refusing to make available a line @ £14.99 a month to someone whom Access were prepared to trust for £5,000 a month.

That Access would not divulge any of this before asking the sap for his father's Christian name (the sap swears this before God, at whose right hand he trusts his father is even now chortling over what fools we mortals be) he did not mind, since Access needed to establish who was phoning.

He did, though, find as weird as everything else in this convoluted saga of secret (yet unsettlingly vulnerable) databases, the fact that Access knew his father's Christian name. But he was cheered to learn that as far as Access was concerned, his credit was so good that were, on some future Black Wednesday, George Soros to make another foray against the £, Mr Lamont would know, this time, where to turn.

Which was exactly what, a few days later, the Chancellor did do, not for help, but simply because he was sharing a dinner table at which the sap raised the matter of computer credit-records. A famous fellow-sufferer of divulgence, Norman accepted the sap's observation that a Citizen's Charter was not worth the vellum it was written on unless a change was made in the present act.

No one should have to discover what some cybernetic gumshoe claims to have against him only at that moment when his bid to buy is publicly refused: checking agencies must be required by law instantly to inform us as soon as an attempt is made to register with them an objection to our creditability, so that we may challenge it *before* it engraves itself covertly upon some microchip.

Because if the law insists that we have no secrets from anyone, the least it should do is tell us whether anyone has them.

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Raising an honest crust

Frances Bissell turns her attention to some budget-conscious kitchen basics



OUT with the flamboyant and esoteric, in with the austere. We've had enough of smoked salmon, cakes and ale. It's time to get back to basics and to keep an eye on the budget. January is a long month of cold, dark days and empty pockets.

Over the next five weeks, I shall bring you warming, nutritious, easy, inexpensive food. By the end of the month, there will be a collection of 25-30 recipes for breads, soups, salads, fish dishes and one-pot meals, together with plenty of suggestions for snacks, leftovers and puddings. Hundreds of menus can be permutated from these few recipes to see us all through the lean times.

Some of the recipes may be too basic or familiar for more experienced cooks, but they meet a need expressed by other readers. Today's recipes, for example, are not intended for those who already have a well-established routine for making their own bread, but for those who would like to do so but who are put off by the mystique and arcane terms attached to it.

Specialist breads can cost as much as £3 a loaf. A 1.5kg bag of strong flour costs about £1, and will make three loaves of bread. I am not suggesting that the bread that you or I will make is as good as that made by bakers who have spent years learning and perfecting their craft, any more than I would claim that you or I could turn out three-star Michelin dinners. But you will be able to produce good bread that will get better and better with practice.

BASIC INGREDIENTS

Yeast: Breadmaking is not a mechanical, unchanging process. Yeast is a living organism and has a life of its own. It grows and expands when conditions are right; i.e., temperature, moisture and food supply. And the carbon dioxide gas caused in the expansion is what "raises" the loaf to give it its characteristic spongy, airy, crumb texture.

Fresh yeast can sometimes be bought from bakers where bread is made on the premises. Health and wholefood shops are another source of fresh yeast. Fast-action dried yeast, also called easy-blend yeast, available from supermarkets, is simply mixed with the dry ingredients, and the dough is only required to rise once. It gives good results. I use fresh yeast if I can get it, or active dried yeast, also available from supermarkets. This comes in granule form, is mixed with water, and then added to the dough, which is given two risings. Some recipes specify active dried yeast. If a recipe calls for fresh yeast, you can replace it with about two-thirds the quantity of dried yeast.

Flour: Gluten, produced from the protein in flour, is what gives bread the characteristic chewy texture. Strong wheat flour has the highest gluten content. Rye flour also has gluten, but less. Other cereals, although containing protein, do not form gluten. Hard and rubbery when flour and water is first mixed, the gluten becomes soft and elastic with kneading.

Strong flour, bread flour, unbleached strong flour and organic bread flour are some of the names under which you will find flour suitable for breadmaking, which can make it a little confusing, especially when several types are on the same shelf. I normally use Marriage's or Doves Farm flours. Allinsons and Jordan are other strong flour names. The supermarkets also do their own-label strong flour.

Salt and water: Salt is used in bread-making to "slow down", and thus control, the action of the yeast. The only other essential ingredient in bread-making is liquid, usually water, although milk, eggs and even cider can replace a proportion of water. It is useful, when developing your own recipes, to remember as a rule of thumb that flour needs more than half its volume of water, that wholemeal flour absorbs even more water, and that on a humid day you might need less water than on a dry day.

TERMS AND TECHNIQUES

Kneading: Turning the heavy flour and water paste to a smooth, pliable, elastic, silky dough requires hard, heavy work, which is, nevertheless, quite manageable in small quantities. Domestic machines can only mix and not perform the pummelling, stretching, tearing and gathering action which is kneading. It is a pleasure to feel the dough form under your hands, and unstick itself from your fingers as it becomes smooth and springy.

On a firm worktop, hold the dough with one hand, and with the heel of your other hand, push the rest of the dough away from you. Give the dough a quarter or half turn, and repeat the process. Do this for 15 minutes, by which time all the dough will have had a thorough kneading.

Knocking back: When the dough has had its first rising, all the air or gas is knocked out of it by turning it out on the table and thumping it around for a few minutes. It can also be given a further kneading, which will improve the quality of the baked product even further.

Proving: This is the final rising of the dough once it has been shaped into loaves and put into prepared tins, moulds or on to trays. Proving should be done at the same temperature as the mixing and kneading, and the dough not allowed to form a hard skin. A thin, damp muslin cloth is better than a tea towel, which might hold down the loaf too much. Proving will take about half an hour in a warm room. It is a good plan to use this time to heat the oven to 240C/475F, gas mark 9. Grease and flour the tins.

Testing for "done-ness", the "hollow" sound: An undercooked loaf is still moist and heavy inside, without enough air trapped in it. When tapped on the bottom, it sounds soft and dull. When fully baked, light and airy inside, it will sound "hollow" when tapped.

OPTIONAL ADDITIVES

Fat: This, in the form of lard or butter, in the proportion of 1oz/30g to 1lb/455g of flour, will give a slightly softer crumb.

Milk: A proportion of water can be replaced by milk — whole, skimmed or semi-skimmed — which too will produce a softer, lighter crumb.

Honey, syrup or treacle: In the proportion of ½oz/15g to 1lb/455g, these will provide extra nourishment for the yeast. One or other should be added to the warm liquid, not mixed or creamed directly with the yeast.

FLAVOURS AND TEXTURES

This is where you can let your creative instincts take over. Remember that substantial liquid additions should be calculated as part of the overall water content, and dry absorbent additions as part of the dry ingredients. If you use eggs or olive oil, you will need slightly less water; if you use a handful or two of oatmeal or cornmeal, use less flour. Some additions, such as powdered saffron or chopped, fresh herbs, for example, will not affect the proportions on way or another.

SAVOURY BREADS

Cheese: Finely grated, hard cheese, about 3oz/85g to 1lb/455g flour.

Tomato: Softened, chopped dried tomatoes or tomato purée.

Onion: Finely chopped onion fried golden brown. Mix some into the dough and scatter the rest on top after glazing the bread with egg yolk beaten with milk before baking.

Nuts and seeds: When added to wholemeal or mixed meal dough, these give a chewy, flavoursome bread. The seeds can be toasted if you prefer. I use sesame, pumpkin and sunflower seeds. In late summer, when herbs go to seed, these too can be added to bread. Basil, fennel, dill, coriander and parsley are all worth trying, as are the finely chopped leaves of the plants.

Olives, stoned and chopped, black or green: Traditional olive breads tend to keep the olives whole and unstoned, but this can be dangerous if you bite into an olive hidden in a thick slice of bread. Chopped rosemary is a perfect partner to the olives.

SWEET BREADS

Orange bread: Stir into the dough two or three tablespoons of dried-up, last year's marmalade, having enriched the dough with a little fat, a free-range egg yolk and some milk. This makes an excellent tea or breakfast bread.

Fruit and nut bread: Into an enriched dough, stir in chopped, dried fruit and nuts: for example, dates and walnuts, stoned prunes and flaked almonds or apricots and hazelnuts.

Saffron bread: Pounded or soaked saffron threads, added to an enriched white dough, can be made into buns or a loaf.

BASIC BREAD RECIPES

White loaf
1lb/455g strong flour, at warm room temperature
1½tsp salt
½pt/280ml warm water
2tsp active dried yeast

Sift the flour and salt into a large warm bowl. Pour half the water into a small bowl, and sprinkle the yeast on top. After a few minutes, it will begin to activate and bubble on the surface. Make a well in the flour and pour in the yeasty liquid, and then the remaining warm water. With your hands, or a wooden spoon, mix the flour and liquid together until it forms a sticky mass. Turn it out on to a floured worktop and knead for 15 minutes.

Put the dough into a large, warm, oiled bowl, cover the top of the bowl (not touching the dough) with clean, damp muslin. Leave in a warm, draught-free place for about 40 minutes, after which the dough will have more than doubled in volume. Knock it back, knead a little more, if you wish, and return it to the bowl to rest for 20 minutes.

Turn it out on to a floured board and quickly shape it to fit your tin or tray. You can be fairly heavy-handed at this stage, as no air should get rolled or folded into the dough. Cover with a light, damp cloth and leave to prove for half an hour. Bake for 30-35 minutes in the centre of a pre-heated oven at 240C/475F, gas mark 9, turning it down to 200C/400F, gas mark 6 after about 15 minutes. Remove from the oven, turn on to a wire rack to cook, but do not slice until cold.

VARIATIONS

Enriched white bread
1lb/455g strong flour at room temperature
1½tsp salt
½pt/200ml warm milk
2tsp active dried yeast
1 free-range egg, approximately equivalent to about 1fl oz/30ml
2oz/50g melted butter

Follow the same method as in the previous recipe, sifting the dry ingredients, sprinkling the yeast into half the milk, and then beating the rest with the egg and butter before mixing the wet and dry ingredients.

Flat olive oil bread
1lb/455g strong plain flour
1tsp finely chopped fresh rosemary
scant 1½tsp salt
2tsp active dried yeast
½pt/200ml warm water
3oz/85ml warm olive oil

Make up the dough as described in the previous recipes, and give it its first rising in a bowl, covered with a damp cloth. Ideally, the dough is then, after being knocked back, put on to an old-fashioned oiled bake-stone, set on a baking tray, or use a cast-iron griddle. Leave the dough, lightly covered with a damp cloth, to rise for 20 minutes, then stretch it to fit the griddle or bake-stone, and let it prove for 20-30 minutes more, covered. With your fingers, make hollows in the surface of the dough at regular intervals. Mix a little olive oil and warm water, brush over the dough, sprinkle on coarse salt, and bake for 20 minutes or so in a pre-heated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6. Cool on a wire rack in the usual way.

Mixed grain and seed bread
½lb/230g strong plain flour
¼lb/110g wholemeal flour
1½tsp salt
¼lb/110g medium oatmeal
12fl oz/340ml warm water
2tsp dried active yeast
2tbsp sunflower seeds
2tbsp pumpkin seeds

Sift the first two flours and salt. Mix the oatmeal with ¼pt/140ml water and let it stand. Sprinkle the yeast on the remaining water and let it stand for a few minutes. Make a well in the dry flours and pour in the yeast mixture. Stir together, add the wet oatmeal mixture and the seeds. Then knead, and proceed as in the previous recipes.

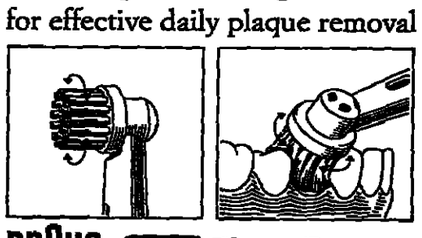
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Britain melts to chocolate's charms

Addict or expert, we cannot resist the seductive lure of chocolate



Mood-altering drug? Scientists believe that cocoa solids have pharmacological effects

Is chocolate addictive? Plenty of people think so, although science has yet to prove it. Certainly no food is surrounded by so much mythology and wish-fulfilment.

The average British consumer gets through 16lb of chocolate a year, with women and children enjoying significantly more than men. Christmas and the new year are the peak periods, with about a sixth of the whole year's consumption packed into a couple of weeks.

There is little doubt that the appetite for chocolate is influenced by mood. In some women, bingeing on chocolate is linked to the monthly cycle and is used as a means of relieving pre-menstrual tension. But are the effects pharmacological or simply emotional? Psychologists are divided in their opinions.

Peter Rogers, of the Institute of Food Research in Reading, Berkshire, believes that we crave chocolate as a reaction to the polite convention that it should be eaten with restraint, and says that its mood-lifting qualities are largely the result of cultural associations. We learn to like chocolate as children and associate it for ever more with happy situations, gifts, treats and rewards.

Other psychologists point to the fact that chocolate does contain some pharmacologically active substances. Among these are phenylethylamine, a stimulant related to dopamine and adrenaline, which are produced naturally by the body. The effect is to raise blood pressure, heart rate and glucose levels, and to heighten sensation — not so different, some say, from the high that results from sex. If so, the advertisers are on the right track in selling chocolate as a sex-substitute.

Chocolate also contains two caffeine-like substances, methylxanthine and theobromine. Professor John Harwood, of the University College of Wales, told *New Scientist* that, in small amounts, both of these chemicals help stimulate the kidneys rather than the brain. "That's why cocoa makes a good bedtime drink," he says. Either substance in excess can lead to nausea and vomiting, well-known consequences of chocolate bingeing.

Experiments at the Eating Disorder Clinic at the University of Michigan, in the United States, a few years ago showed that a craving for sweets could be modified by blocking the opiate receptors in the brain. Nine women were injected with the drug naxolone, known to prevent the brain from taking up its own pleasure-enhancing substances, the opioids. The result was to reduce the women's consumption of chocolate.

Professor Harwood believes that part of the magic of chocolate comes from its melting point, just below body temperature. This means that it melts in the mouth, absorbing heat from the palate and creating a pleasant sensation.

Brand loyalty among chocolate consumers is strong. Hershey bars may hold Americans in thrall, but they appeal little to those raised on Mars bars or Kit Kats. Attempts by European manufacturers to break into the British market have not proved successful, although classy foreign chocolates have gained a foothold among connoisseurs.

One such is Nicola Porter, who runs the Chocolate Society from a farmhouse near Otley in West Yorkshire. Launched 15 months ago, the society now has 1,000 members, who receive regular bulletins with chocolate information, and — by paying more — samples, too.

The key, Mrs Porter says, is cocoa content. British chocolate traditionally contains only about 20 per cent cocoa solids, plus a lot of sugar, and, says Mrs Porter darkly, "undisclosed fats". "High cocoa chocolate is much better for you, and by that I mean any chocolate with more than 55 per cent cocoa," she says.

A few years ago, the only readily-available chocolate in Britain that met this criterion was Chocolat Meunière, the French cooking chocolate. Today, she says, things are better, with both Waitrose and Sainsbury's selling own-brand dark chocolate that meets with her approval.

The *premier cru*, however, is Valrhona, a French chocolate, which Mrs Porter declares the best. It is available in some big stores, such as Harrods and Selfridges, although you are unlikely to find it in a corner sweet shop. With a whopping 70 per cent cocoa content, "the flavour is so intense that you only need a little square, which cuts through everything you've eaten," Mrs Porter says.

Mainstream manufacturers sniff defensively at claims like these. Cadbury's says: "Good chocolate cannot be defined by measures as crude as the proportion of cocoa or whether a particular ingredient is included or not. Good chocolate is an art form."

The mass market may not know much about art, but it knows what it likes. Economic depression notwithstanding, chocolate goes on selling to satisfy a taste that cannot get enough of it.

NIGEL HAWKES

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الفيصل

Great chieftain of the haggis race

Stand by with your neeps and tatties for Burns night — and a haggis from Macsweens of Edinburgh, says

Fiona Beckett

At Macsweens in Edinburgh the haggis jokes come thick and fast. "Haggis Hunting Hours Mon-Fri 7.30-5.30", proclaims a notice on the door. Larky leaflets give recipes for Wee Cocktail Haggis and Haggis Cannelloni.

But the humour's for the many tourists who beat a path to Macsweens' door. North of the border haggis is a desperately serious business — a routine part of the Scottish diet and, once a year on January 25, the *sine qua non* of a Burns night supper.

John Macsween, current patriach of the Macsween dynasty, first realised the commercial potential of the haggis side of the business in the early 1980s, shortly after taking over the family firm. A successful week's haggis promotion in Selfridges was followed by orders from Harrods and Fortnum's. Now at the height of the haggis season (October to March), he makes around a ton a day.

"People want to be associated with eating haggis, even if they don't really like it," says Mr Macsween. "It's much more than just a food — it's almost as though it's in the blood."

Understanding the place haggis holds in the hearts of the Scots helps to explain the popularity of vegetarian haggis, a Macsweens innovation which has taken off like a rocket since it was launched eight years ago. Made of black kidney beans, lentils, nuts, mushrooms, swede and carrots, it's not really a haggis at all, says Mr Macsween.

"To be honest we produced it as a bit of a joke. We were asked to make one to celebrate the opening of a poetry library. BBC Scotland got hold of the story and gave the impression we were selling it. We had all these people ringing up trying to buy it, so we decided to develop it as a regular line. It now accounts for 10 per cent of our haggis sales. Most meat-eaters who try it still say they prefer the original, but the veggies think it's fantastic."

In deference to his customers' sensitivities, Mr Macsween has toned down the macho presentation of the prototype haggis. The vegetarian haggis is described simply as "haggis for three" rather than the potentially offensive "three-*man* haggis".

Both veggie and non-veggie versions are made on the premises supervised by chief haggis maker Ian Ramsay, a haggis-a-day man. It's not a spectacle for the faint-hearted. The mixture, a gutsy combination of sheep's heart, lights, liver and oatmeal, is pounded together 1,000lb at a time, and then delivered in precisely measured amounts from a giant German sausage machine. The finished haggis are then simmered in boiling water, where they lie wallowing like hippopotamuses in a large tank.

Mr Ramsay claims haggis is deeply healthy. "There's a lot of protein in it. For the price I'd rather have a haggis than a piece of steak. Pound for pound it's much better value."

In their time the Macsweens have custom-made haggis in various shapes and sizes. "We did a heart-shaped haggis for Harrods as a special Valentine's promotion. They all had to be hand-sewn so they were astronomically expensive — £10 for less than a pound. We've produced a haggis in the shape of a rugby ball. We had a woman ask for a black pudding in the shape of a 50 for her husband's birthday. Basically we'll tackle anything."

There is some resistance to serving the end product in any other way than with neeps (turnips) and mashed tatties (potatoes), though less hidebound customers have helpfully suggested other possibilities, such as haggis burgers and haggis bites.

Macsweens also stocks a range of other nostalgia-rich lines for ex-pat Scots, including mealy or white puddings, fruit pudding (a traditional accompaniment for bacon and eggs) and Lorne sausage (a square, beef, slicing sausage). "The further away from home a Scot gets the more Scottish he becomes," says Mr Macsween.

Macsween haggis find their way all over the globe for Burns suppers. "We get lots of requests from France and Germany," says Mr Macsween. "Sometimes they get through in the diplomatic bag. British Airways is very good about transporting haggis at short notice."

Faced with a seemingly insatiable demand for his product, Mr Macsween now has to resolve the dilemma of whether to set up a purpose-built haggis factory. "We've got the supermarkets knocking at our door and we can't supply them, but we don't want to give up our link with the shop and Bruntsfield. It really depends on the next generation wanting to carry on."

There should be enough demand for it. "We had a chap in this morning saying he dare not go south without a Macsween haggis. That's the backbone of our trade."

Haggis, neeps and tatties

6-8oz haggis per person
mashed turnip
mashed potato

Wrap the haggis tightly in tin foil and place in a large saucepan of cold water. Bring to the boil and simmer gently for 45 minutes per lb. When ready to serve remove from foil and drain off the excess water. Split the skin with a sharp knife and spoon the contents on to a hot (most important) plate with mashed turnip and mashed potato. (In the south some people like to serve a gravy with this meal.)

● *Macsweens of Edinburgh, 130 Bruntsfield, Edinburgh EH10 4ES (031-229 1216). Opening hours: 7.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 7am-4.30pm Sat. Early closing. Wednesday. Macsweens haggis are also available from selected butchers (and, in the case of the vegetarian haggis, from health food shops) and by mail order. Prices from £1.50-£2.50 a lb (from £1.30 a lb for the vegetarian version).*

MIKE WILKINSON



North of the border it's in the blood: at the height of the season (October to March), John Macsween makes a ton of haggis a day

United nations for lunch

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

Sir Peter Ustinov

Because my wife and I are often away, we entertain at home only rarely. So I'm not very good at the hospitality bit. When I bought our house in Switzerland, which I adore, I was undergoing a rather difficult divorce. I had custody of the children, who were going to schools nearby, and the house became a kind of anchor. It has been a place of great happiness for all of us.

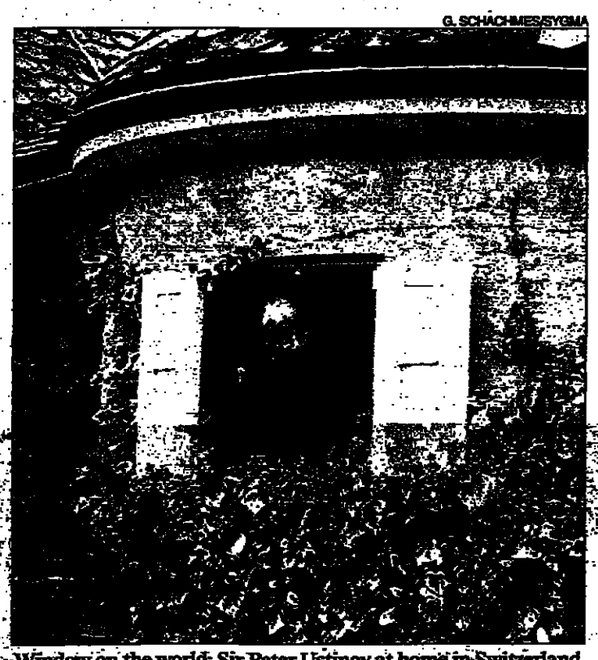
Now, of course, the children are grown up and have dispersed to various places, but we usually all gather in Switzerland at least once a year. If that house didn't exist, I should be miserable. I wouldn't know what to do. But the very fact it's there means I know I can always go back. These days, I no longer enjoy travelling as much as I did, everything's late all the time, the recession seems to have affected everything.

Guests love to think I do the cooking because I look as if I do. But I don't. I'm a lamentable cook. I have tried several times and once even invented a dish that turned out to be quite appalling — it was some kind of macaroni cheese made with Camembert and it tasted quite vile and was a tremendous waste of Camembert.

My wife doesn't cook either, so we have a Portuguese couple to do it for us. The man is an excellent cook. I've got a good cellar with some very nice reds and whites, mainly French. Nowadays, though, unless we have people over at lunch-time, I tend to confine my drinking to the evening because, if I drink during the day, I'm liable afterwards to fall asleep in the middle of a word, which gives people rather the wrong impression . . . in the middle of a sentence will do, but in the middle of a word won't.'

Although we like entertaining, I have to say we're not terribly organised about it. But when we do, people are often surprised by the quality of the wines we offer, and even of the food. If I say to my Portuguese chap, "There are some very important people coming to lunch tomorrow," he likes that very much and performs as if he's a four-star chef, arranging the food on the plates with meticulous care, and doing intricate things with lemon peel. I don't know what he gets up to, I don't understand such things at all, but he does it very well.

G. SCHACHMES/SYGMA



Window on the world: Sir Peter Ustinov at home in Switzerland

There are certain dishes he's particularly good at so, when people are coming, we tend to stick to those.

When I was in Ireland I bought him an earthenware dish in the shape of a chicken, a terracotta thing in which you cook the bird dry. Since Ireland and Portugal have certain affinities, in the sense they're both rather do-it-yourself sorts of countries, he took to this immediately. Now he makes an absolutely delicious chicken cooked with all the vegetables in there. It's the sort of thing people don't usually get to eat and they seem to like it very much.

His fish is excellent too, as a Portuguese's fish should be — not just sardines either. I've also bought him a Thai cookbook, written in French — he speaks French. This one has my favourite soup in it, again it's chicken but this time cooked in coconut milk with lemon grass. It's absolutely fabulous, people love it.

Over the years I've got to know a lot of United Nations people based in Geneva and we have one or two French friends who live the other side of the lake. The distances are all very Los Angeles. Friends arriving for lunch either have to drive round the lake or come across on the boat and I pick them up at the landing stage.

I dislike parties with more than eight people. You can't really enjoy them. You get this terrible feeling you're returning debts. In fact, they become like cocktail parties and I can't *abide* cocktail parties: "Who else should we invite?" Ugh, we haven't seen them in ages, oh yes and they invited us, so put them down . . ." Then you're stuck with a canape and some disagreeable people in a corner, unable to hear them properly or even sit down. That's not my idea of fun.

Quite frankly, as you get older, you have fewer and fewer friends — although I have to say that those you *do* have get better and better. But I think I really prefer to entertain people in restaurants in big cities. It makes more sense, especially as I look upon our house as our sanctuary.

Sir Peter Ustinov's favourite recipe

One obliging Portuguese couple, one half of which is an excellent cook and does interesting things with lemon peel.

Interview by Paddy Burt

Bag a bargain bottle

Shop around for amazing deals from the beleaguered wine trade

The wine trade had a miserable Christmas, doing lacklustre business that came late and ended early. As usual, the supermarkets fared best. Now, however, we can look forward to the New Year wine sales.

With so much discounted stock on offer, including mature top bordeaux and burgundy from great years, serious bargain hunters should take time to shop around and compare prices. Bankruptcy stock plus the release of BES scheme wines mean, as one high street buyer put it, "some amazing deals". And 1993 will see plenty more cut-price, distressed stock on sale; the latest casualty is John Harvey & Sons of Bristol, which shortly intends to reduce its wine business by half.

Top of my January sale searches is Corney & Barrow's bin end offer. Much like Corney's celebrated 1989 January sale, this unorthodox cases-only offer includes bottles as diverse as Latour '61, at £500 a bottle, to what could be some highly respectable but fully mature, lesser-known '70 and '71 clarets, such as 1970 Châteaux Bertin from Montagne St Emilion, plus '71 Châteaux des Tonnelles from Fronsac, both given away at just £2.50 each.

Other hot but modest bordeaux buys here include '83 Bel Air and '82 Méaume for £4.08. The '88 Tertre Roteboeuf (£11.25), plus a long list of mature white and red burgundy from top names such as Leflaive and Dujac, must also be worth plundering. But who on earth would want to buy Corney's 1990 Beaujolais Nouveau at £3.83?

Layton's continues successfully to offload the £3.5 million-worth of agency house Atkinson Baldwin's distressed stock, including some very toothsome wine, such as Jean Lionnet's luscious raspberry and blackberry loaded '90 Côtes du Rhône (£6.26) from steep hillside vines, and a zingy, mouthwatering '90 Pouilly Blanc Fumé from Roger Pabiot (£7.64). Nor would anyone go wrong here with the chunky, blackcurranty magnums of '82 Citran (£21.74), or the rich, cedary fruit of the '85 and '88 Grand Puy Lacoste vintages at £17.43 and £14.88 each respectively. Those partial to mature burgundy should home in on Georges Roumier's gloriously gamey '86 Chambolle Musigny at £15.47.

Avery's cash-with-order New Year sale has some glorious "golden oldie" cases of aged bordeaux and burgundy at a decent discount. Remoissenet burgundies from top years in the 1950s, 60s and 70s have been reduced by £5 a bottle. And there is a case of leading



Look for cut-price vins de pays

bordeaux châteaux from vintages in the '50s and '60s, including the fabled '61 and '62 reduced by almost £10 a wine. Look out here too for 24 different decent half-bottles reduced from £9 to £4.12.

If you are worried, quite rightly, about where your cut-price bottle has been before it gets to you, then get in touch with Berry Bros & Rudd. This firm's short list of January sale wines have all been bought and stored by Berrys for at least five years, if not 20. Claret, unsurprisingly, is what to go for here. But prices unfortunately are steep: '85 Ducru Beaucaillou is down from £39.50 to £30.60, compared to Lay & Wheeler's sale price of £23.75. Berry Bros & Rudd is at 3 St James Street, London SW1.

Quite what effect the removal (as of yesterday) of UK duty on wine brought in by drinkers for their own personal consumption (up to 90 litres a head) will have on the recession-wrecked trade is difficult to assess. One merchant who intends to fight back is Lay & Wheeler of Colchester, which is selling '88 Château Sociondo and '86 Château Gayon direct from its Colchester wine shops at the "duty free equivalent" prices of £4.83, not £5.94 a bottle. Keen buys from L & W's sale include Talbot '88, from £16.30 to £14.50, and La Lagune '88 from £15.35 to £13.50, plus '85 Sarget de Gruaud-Larose, down by £2 to £10.25.

Good Bibendum buys (113 Regent's Park Road, NW1) include £2 and £3 cut price French vins de pays, plus some good rhônes, including Guigal's '85 Brune et Blonde Côte Rôtie for £15.20, and the gorgeous Le Mesnil non-vintage champagne for £13.50.

John Armit Wines, 5 Royalty Studios, 105 Lancaster Road, London W11, offers other keenly priced wines, and a short run of good Leflaive and Tollot-Beaut burgundies. Check him out. Devoted bargain hunters will also want to check out Davisons' 10 per cent reduction on its entire range of claret and champagne.

Finally, no one should miss The Victoria Wine Company's January sale, starting January 5 and closing February 3. The stars here are Victoria Wine's nutty '83 or nasty '86 own-label champagne, down from £15.99 to £13.99, and the excellent Deutz Marlborough Cuvée, down from £9.99 to £8.49.

JANE MACQUITTY

Best January buys

● **1970 Château Bertin Montagne St Emilion** *(£2.50) and* **1971 Châteaux des Tonnelles** *(£2.50)*
Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1.
● **1990 Côtes du Rhône, Jean Lionnet** *(£6.26) and* **1986 Chambolle Musigny, G. Roumier** *(£15.47)*
Laytons, 20 Midland Road, London NW1.
● **"Golden Oldie" bordeaux and burgundy vintage cases**
Averys, 7 Park Street, Bristol.
● **1988 Talbot** *(£14.50) and* **1988 La Lagune** *(£13.50)*
Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester.
● **1983/86 Victoria Wine champagne** *(£13.99, down from £15.99)*
Victoria Wine Company branches, Jan 5-Feb 3. And **Deutz Marlborough Cuvée** *(£8.49, down from £9.99), Jan 5-Feb 3.*

Please note these offers are usually cases only.

Meat of kings going cheap to the masses

Scotland is being overrun by deer and the price of venison is plummeting, which is good news for supermarket customers

Would you rather eat Bambi shot in the wild, or fresh from a farm that might be described as a concentration camp for deer?

It is the sort of agonising choice many people would evidently rather avoid. Venison, though hailed as the low-calorie, low-cholesterol designer meat for the 1990s, is still regarded as so distasteful that it accounts for no more than 0.06 per cent of the meat market.

Like it or not, however, the choice between wild deer and farmed is about to be forced down our throats, because if someone does not eat a lot of deer soon we are likely to be overrun with them.

Later this month, Sir Alistair Grant, the chairman of the Argyll group, will launch the mass market in wild Scottish venison, which will go on sale in 100 of the group's Safeway stores. The idea sprang from a day's stalking in the Caithness deer forest of Glutt — appropriately named, as during his day's sport Sir Alistair learnt that venison, once the meat of kings, is in such glut that it is almost valueless.

Britain's only wholly free-ranging and organically produced meat sells from deer larders for less than the price of dog food. Though roe deer meat, generally considered the finest, fetches up to £1 per lb from game dealers, the price of red deer venison has collapsed from 90p three years ago to barely 30p. Venison now commands only a fifth of the wholesale price of 20 years ago, though butchers' prices still start from about £3.15 a pound.

The main cause has been an avalanche of cheap venison, which poured out of eastern Europe into Germany, the main market, when the Berlin wall fell. Germany stopped importing from Scotland at much the same time as cheap imports from New Zealand hit the market for a double whammy.

Last month in Perth the Scottish Farm Venison Marketing Initiative was launched to increase the consumption of home-produced farm venison tenfold within the coming decade.

There are about 30,000 breeding deer on 240 farms in the United Kingdom. Scotland's 70 deer farmers run about 10,000 hinds, and the initiative aims for there to be 100,000 in 2003. That compares with the 600,000 already busy breeding in New Zealand.

There lies the rub. Deer breed almost as efficiently as rabbits. In the absence of natural predators, such as wolves and lynxes, they increase at the rate of 30 per cent a year. To control numbers, any established herd must be culled by nearly a third every year. Once, sportsmen would pay well to participate in the killing, but not now. The deer forests are in crisis. A tenth of Scotland's 3 million acres of deer range is for sale, in 44 forests. Range that might have fetched £100 an acre in the late 1980s seldom realises more than £20.

Stalking rents have been slashed and in many areas of Scotland, unculled red deer populations have reached pestilential proportions. Because we are not eating the deer, the deer are eating Scotland.

At a conference last autumn in Aviemore, an unprecedented gathering of Scotland's deer managers accepted that it was imperative they should produce and market wild venison for a wider market. The Prince of Wales, patron of the British Deer Society, told delegates that economically viable deer management was essential for the health of the environment, the survival of remote communities dependent on the sporting estates, and ultimately for the good of the deer themselves.

It was at that conference that Safeway's plans to sell venison were disclosed. The store has laid down careful terms on which it plans to make wild venison more palatable for its customers. Instead of old stags and hinds, deer of a range of ages will be culled to ensure supplies of tender meat fit for use as grills and steaks. Stags will have to be shot earlier in the season, in July and August. And the meat will have to be hygienically handled from the moment it is shot to the time it gets to the refrigerated display cabinet. Those requirements met, Safeway says its market research confirms there will be a permanent place for wild venison in British supermarkets.

Safeway will be selling a range of ten venison products: boneless joints; steaks; diced, marinated and peppered meat; grills; sausages; ready meals; pâté; smoked slices; and pie. Whether that will leave any room for any more farmed venison must be doubtful.

ROBIN YOUNG

WHAT TO WEAR

Raffish cut of the urban horsewoman

The pale English complexion is flattered by the elegant style of a riding habit, especially in town, Sue Crewe says

There is a *louche*, Latin look that hints at a muss-haired temptress who has just got out of bed and is perfectly amenable to climbing back between the sheets. The Anglo-Saxon version is altogether subtler, but no less powerfully alluring.

The Englishwoman looks terrific when it appears she has just got off her horse but is about to tighten the girths, remount and clatter out of the stableyard. There is something sexy about the functional imperatives of hunting clothes, and their severe tailoring and body-sculpting contours are a gift to the female figure.

Riding clothes suit our psyche and our physiognomy, just as our national complexion — pale, translucent, rain-nourished — responds magnificently to the nip of a frosty morning. Whereas Italian women glide and French women sashay with hip-swinging insolence, their tapering heels tapping out a challenge on the pavement, the English gait is purposively long-strided and stalks comfortably along in tall leather boots.

While American hair is a conceptually frozen moment and continental hair is *soigné*, British hair swings, tumbles and escapes. If American fingernails were designed to skitter over a digital phone pad, then the pale buffed ovals on the end of a British hand were surely fashioned to twist smooth the silver links of a curb chain.

It is no accident that echoes of riding habits and ratcatcher fabric resonate on the international catwalks. Hunting clothes have evolved over centuries, and it would be remarkable if they had not evolved into garments for followers of fashion rather than followers to hounds. Breeches are not the whimsical leitmotifs of designers casting about for themes, but rather the logical development of a flexible trouser that shows off a pretty calf.

It is our good fortune that the warm, comfortable practicality of breeches and boots, topped by waistcoat and jacket, admirably suits our characters and lives. Moreover, this is not a difficult or expensive look to put together. Borrow a loved one's white shirt, improvise a stock with starch and a tie pin, keep an inexpensive pair of boots in expensive-looking condition (with energetic applications of boot polish), and revel in the cheapness of high-street jodhpurs. However, it is worth spending as much as you can on the jacket or coat.

The jacket must be long enough to cover that sartorial minefield, the upper thigh. Unless you are very young or have breathtaking legs, the hem must be no more than eight inches above the knee. If the jacket is long enough you will look raffishly, dashingly elegant, and if it is not you will look like one of those sad girls who lurked wistfully round the horseboxes at the gymkhanas of my childhood. With the ruthlessness of youth, we, the mounted, disdained them utterly because, despite being booted and spurred, they did not have a pony.

However, this is not the look for small country towns. If you want to buy fruit in Chipping Norton or post a letter in Lambourn, do not do it wearing top-boots and redingote. If you do, the locals will assume you have lost your horse and embarrass you with offers of help; worse, they might think you have had a fall and are only asking for kumquats on account of being concussed.

The equestrian rig is urban and sophisticated. Recently, I saw that quintessential Englishwoman, Joan Collins, shopping in decorator Nicholas Haslam's shop. She was wearing a tweed jacket over a fawn cashmere polo-neck sweater, cream breeches and flat brown hunting boots. She looked wonderful.

This look can go to the country at weekends but must keep off the grass, and the only scent it should follow comes from a pretty bottle. In these boots, the only hedges you should take are ones against inflation, and the only banks you should clear are in the high street.

This is stylistic pastiche and must not rub against reality. These are clothes for lunch clubbing, not cubbing.



ABOVE

Fiona (seated) wears beige corded jodhpurs, £37, Boden (071-608 3230). Printed silk tie, £22.50, cream cotton shirt, £42.50, Thomas Pink, 35 Dover Street, W1, and branches. Green waistcoat, £69, and whips from a selection at Hackett, 137-138 Sloane Street, SW1. Cream "Mrs Simpson" cardigan, £160, Marion Foale, 14 Hinde Street, W1. Grey suede gloves, £60, brown felt bowler hat, £89, Herbert Johnson, 30 New Bond Street, W1. Brown boots to order from Jimmy Choo (071-249 2082). Katie (standing) wears brown badger cardigan, £170, Marion Foale. Silk cravat, £40, Georgina von Etzdorf, 41 Burlington Arcade, W1. Yellow waistcoat, £69, jodhpurs, £95, yellow string gloves, £9, Hackett. Boots, £69.99, Hobbs, 47 South Molton Street, W1.

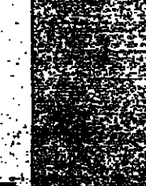
ABOVE

Eliza Henderson (baby) wears blue and white romper suit, £49.95, Patrizia Wigan, 19 Walton Street, SW3. Blue woollen beret to order from Catherine Buxton (071-602 7577). Lucinda wears navy blue jacket, £295, Hackett, 137-138 Sloane Street, SW1. White stock, £15, Hackett. Black catsuit, from a selection, £39.99 to £59.95, Pineapple, 6a Langley Street, WC2. Black boots to order from Jimmy Choo (071-249 2082). Gold Paloma Picasso kiss earrings for Tiffany & Co, £230, 25 Old Bond St, W1.

Photographs by John Hudson; styling Victoria Pyman; hair and makeup by Catherine Buxton; fashion assistant Kate Wiggin. Photographed at Cliveden, Taplow, Buckinghamshire.

RIGHT

Fiona Fairburn (left) wears cherry-red Melton military coat, £250, Hobbs, 47 South Molton Street, London W1. Black catsuit, from a selection, £39.99 to £59.95, Pineapple, 6a Langley Street, WC2. Black leather gloves, £75, Herbert Johnson, 39 New Bond Street, W1. Black boots to order from Jimmy Choo (071-249 2082). Black bowler hat, £89, Herbert Johnson (as above). Black velvet ribbon, £2.25 a metre, VV Rouleaux, 201 New King's Road, SW6. Katie Acornley (right) wears beige breeches, £120, Hackett, 137-138 Sloane Street, SW1. Red waistcoat, £69, Hackett. White cotton shirt, £42, Thomas Pink, 35 Dover Street, W1, and branches. Silk knot cufflinks, £5, Thomas Pink. Silk printed tie, £22.50, Thomas Pink. Black leather riding boots to order from Jimmy Choo (as above). Lucinda Henderson (on horse) wears red knitted Greta cardigan, £170, Marion Foale, 14 Hinde Street, W1. Black catsuit, as above. Black hat to order from Catherine Buxton (071-602 7577). Black boots to order from Jimmy Choo.



TIMES READER OFFER: TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE TRAVEL BARGAIN

Save your dollars at top US hotels

To mark the launch this week of *The Times* Transatlantic Privilege Pass, which offers savings of up to £1,932 when you fly with Northwest Airlines, *The Times* has negotiated an exclusive two for the price of one deal with Vista Hotels, giving you and a friend the opportunity to enjoy a double room at the single room price in some of the best hotels in the United States.

The offer, giving savings of up to $86 (about £56) off standard prices, is available in New York, Chicago, Washington, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis and Newark. Rooms have all the facilities that business and leisure travellers expect from a first class hotel, including television, direct-dial phones and mini-bar. The restaurants all serve a choice of superb food and wines.

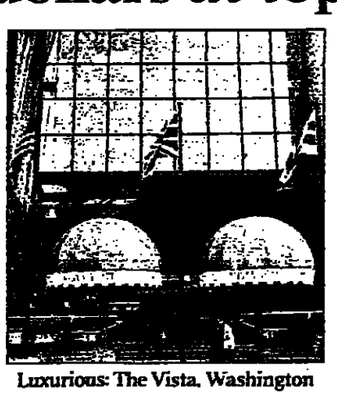
Whether you are planning a holiday, a business trip, or just want to have a break, you can take advantage of this offer as long as your visit is before next June 30.

WHERE TO STAY

● **New York Vista.** Between the twin towers of the World Trade Center and within walking distance of Wall Street. Take a trip to the 107th floor of the center and eat in the Windows on the World restaurant with its spectacular views. Offer price: $189 (£121.15) a night. Save $66.

● **Washington Vista.** Within walking distance of the White House, St John's Church ("Church of Presidents"). The Smithsonian and many other exciting sights of America's capital. Offer price: $99 (£63.46) a night. Save $86.

● **Chicago Drake.** Set on the "Gold Coast", across from Oak Street Beach on the "Magnificent Mile"; ideal for the nightlife, museums and theatres. Offer price: $149 (£95.51) a night. Save $61.



Luxurious: The Vista, Washington

● **Pittsburgh Vista.** In the centre of the city and ideal for exploring the famed museums and galleries, and enjoying regional cuisine. Offer price: $109 (£69.87) a night. Save $81.

● **Minneapolis Marquette.** The perfect base for exploring the many theatres, including the Guthrie, the Walker Art Center, the Metrodome, and the city's parks and lakes of Minneapolis. Offer price: $109 (£69.87) a night. Save $56.

● **Newark Airport Vista.** Set in New Jersey, the hotel has a swimming pool and fitness centre and excellent service. Offer price: $79 (£50.64) a night. Save $40.

HOW TO APPLY

Call the Hilton Reservation Service on 081-780 1155, quoting *The Times* ref AL

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 Bookings must be made and your stay completed before June 30, 1993.
2 Rates shown are for each night for two people sharing a twin/double room. This offer is exclusive to Times readers and equates to the normal rate for a single room, or less in some cases.
3 The rates quoted in $US are valid for the duration of the offer. Sterling rates are approximate and may vary.
4 $US rates do not include compulsory local taxes. These will be confirmed on booking.
5 Minimum stay is two consecutive nights.
6 Payment is made on departure from the hotel.
7 The offer is subject to availability.
8 Breakfast and other services are not included.

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WEEKEND BREAK

Lithuania welcomes tourists, but they need a taste for pork

Baltic state with change to spare

In March 1990, Lithuania declared itself an independent Baltic state. Today Vilnius, the capital city and home of the independence movement, is struggling to assert its nationhood and shake off the old Soviet legacy.

From a winding road above the city, Vilnius resembles a faded Brueghel: snow-capped, russet and brown, faded, ramshackle buildings, huddled around narrow roads peppered with spindly trees through which older people trudge and children sledge.

Squint through the falling snow and you could be forgiven for believing that the 20th century visited Vilnius, left its calling card and very little else. The panorama has escaped the trauma of brutal Stalinist architecture and its concrete skyscrapers. And there is very little traffic. People walk or take battered old yellow trams, stuffed with shoppers, schoolchildren and churchgoers.

A city without cars or an industrial skyline holds great appeal to a westerner, but to a Lithuanian it simply resembles poverty. There is nothing idyllic about the fact that petrol is prohibitively expensive, and there is little industry. The Lithuanians are paying for their independence from Moscow, and some wonder if the financial cost is worth the political freedom they have gained.

The city's Catholic cathedral, outside which the independence movement used to demonstrate against Soviet rule, is packed with people shuffling to take Mass on a Sunday morning. Banned for more than 70 years, the church has undergone a revival, and some Lithuanians are cynical about its appeal. "It's only popular because people couldn't go there for so long. It's as fashionable as wearing Levis to take Mass," an old man says. Inside, the bishop pleads with his congregation to "be patient: change will come".

Change is something the residents of Vilnius accept as part of their daily life. Changing political leaders, politics, economy, prices, religion and freedom. The list is endless. But what they want to change most is their relative international isolation and lack of foreign currency, and so they are asking the world's tourists to step inside.

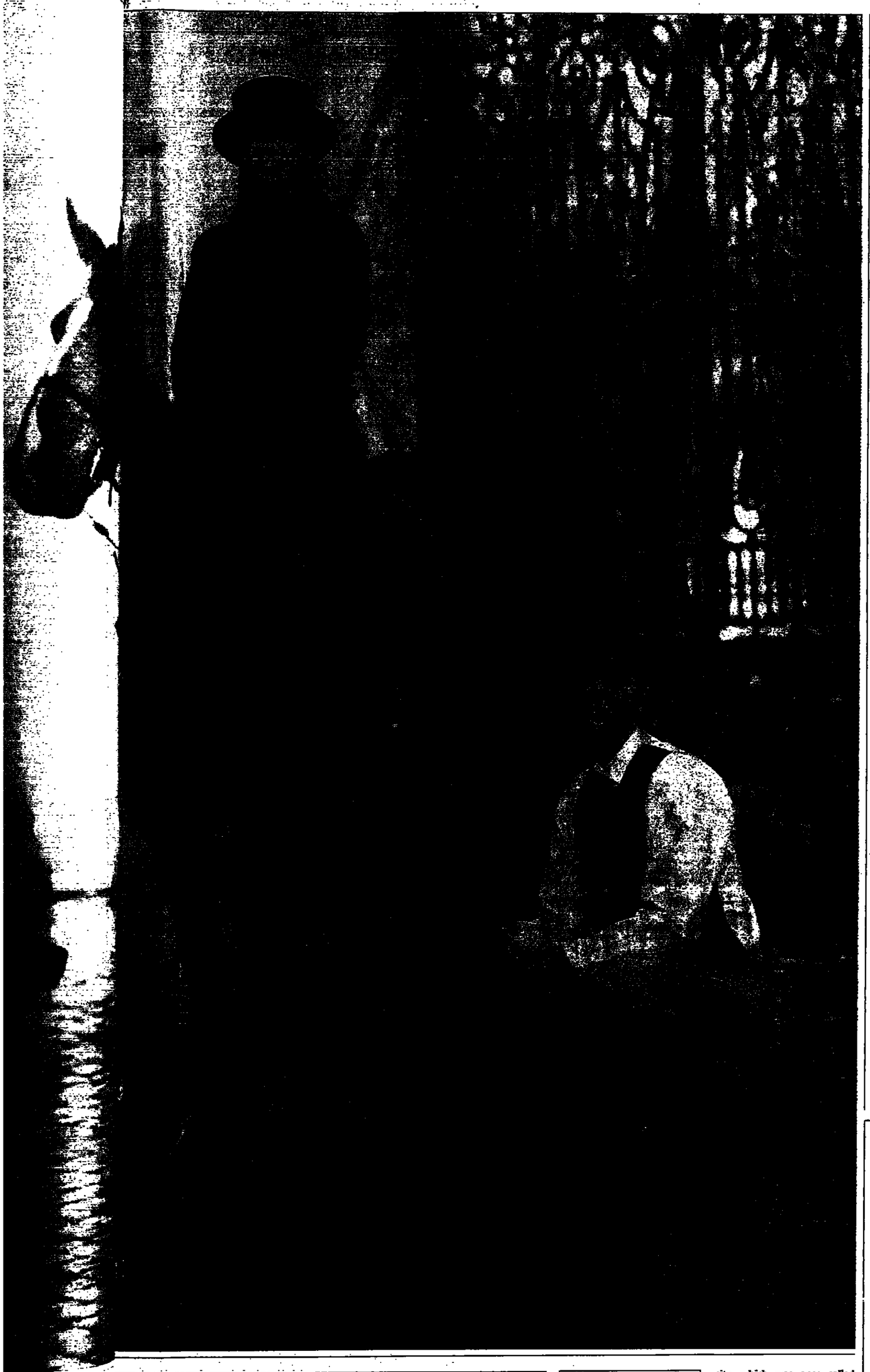
For the tourist who does step inside Vilnius, be warned: A holiday in Lithuania in the winter is not for the pampered and difficult-to-please: it is for the curious traveller who fears neither freezing temperatures, wood-chip toilet paper, Lithuanian vodka, which becomes smoother with every glass, nor pork.

Sadly, as a vegetarian, I discovered that Lithuania is not the place for a non-meat eater. There is plenty of pork, dried fish, potatoes fried in pork fat, cured meats, semolina pasta doused in pork fat, and more pork. Vegetables are scarce, but there are plenty of eggs, usually fried in pork fat.

The city is easy to explore within a weekend. Reject out of hand a tour bus, and wander at will among the winding streets littered with revived churches.

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SPORTING LIFE

Worth its weight in health

Lavishly equipped gymnasiums are on the increase as more stressed people seek better looks and health

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Strongman: writer John Goodbody pumps his muscles

Weightlifting is "a sport that has got lost in the suburbs. It is private, obsessive." The words of Mai Zetterling, when directing the official film of the 1972 Olympic Games, point to the all-consuming desire of the competitive strongman.

However, the growth of weight-training in recent years owes more to people wanting to balance stressful mental work with regular physical activity than it does to dedication towards a single aim.

Weightlifting, power-lifting and competitive body-building have all become more popular, but the most dramatic rise has been in "fitness body-building", men and women wanting to improve their physique, looks and health. New health clubs and gymnasiums are starting up, open from early morning to late in the evening.

David Giampaolo, the managing director of the Espree, a leading London health club, says: "People come when they can. They do not have to book a court as in tennis, squash and badminton, and, unlike team sports, they are not constrained by the personal requirements of others."

Like many other clubs started in recent years, the Espree has facilities for cardiovascular work — treadmills, static bicycles and rowing machines — and for resistance training, using apparatus and free weights. Together with flexibility exercises they provide all-round fitness.

Exercise and proper diet, Mr Giampaolo says, add more years to one's life and life to one's years than anything else.

Machines which help people train against resistance in the correct pattern of movement are valuable for many beginners. However, most serious weight-trainers use evenly loaded dumbells or barbells, either exclusively or in combination with machines.

Yet the basic principle of increasing strength has not changed over the years: the body has to be subjected to more resistance. It adapts to the greater demands being placed on it and the muscles grow bigger to cope with the added resistance. Strength gained through weight-training is useful for many sports. Leading athletes and rowers, wrestlers and swimmers are often remarkably strong, particularly for their size.

It is best to begin weight-training in a gymnasium, because of the need to get correct instruction, but care should be taken when selecting a club. Some specialise in weight-training for sport, some for serious body-building, some for competitive lifting, but most are for general workouts and cater for several needs. The most important feature is that the atmosphere is right: friendly but hard-working.

After the movements have been learnt, weight-training can also be practised at home, so that short, extra sessions can be added to one's routine. Barbells and dumbells are cheap and last forever.

Weight-training gradually becomes compulsive, so that the individual hungers to exercise. When travelling abroad, I always take a chest-expander, and together with exercises such as press-ups and sit-ups, I can enjoy at least a moderately rigorous session. The only difficulties I have encountered have been accidentally pulling down a door lintel in Reykjavik, and shocking a chambermaid in Cagliari when she found me doing exercises balanced on top of the television set.

A fascination of weight-training is that every time you do an exercise you know exactly how much weight you are handling and how often you can lift it. You know how that relates to your showing last week, last month or last year.

Non-lifters cannot comprehend the joy of knowing you are stronger than ever. The psyche of the weight-trainer can be consumed by this obsession. Mai Zetterling was probably right.

JOHN GOODBODY

Fact box

- There are thousands of gymnasiums in Britain, ranging from local sports centres, which often charge as little as £1 a session, to more lavishly equipped health clubs, such as the Espree in Royal Mint Court, near Tower Bridge, London (071-488 1222), which has a joining fee of £150 and a monthly charge of £46, covering all sessions seven days a week.
- Home exercise equipment is cheap and usually lasts forever. A good, standard iron bar, two dumbells and 110lb of weights will cost less than £100. Chest-expanders are about £10.
- To join the British Amateur Weightlifters Association (BAWLA) and take part in competitions, write to: Wally Holland, 3 Iffley Turn, Oxford. Senior membership is £5 a year, junior £3.
- The new edition of *The Manual of Weight-training* (Stanley Paul, £14.99), edited by John Goodbody, will be published on Jan 21. Access/Visa cardholders can order on 0279 427203.

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WE GO FURTHER



Viewpoint: to western eyes Lithuanian villages look romantically unspoilt rather than poor

A taste for pork

...ums, *ad hoc* art galleries ...lden cafés.

...re are a handful of hotels ...h cater for tourists and a ...ber of very basic hostels ...he independent traveller. ...buildings have signs, and ...s are of little help. The ...ure of the city is in its ...en nooks and crannies.

In Dawngate, people queue to see the icon of Mary and ask for help from their spiritual mother. On wooden tables in the street, women with red-raw hands and wind-chaffed faces try to sell children candy, and to the German tourists they offer amber and, with a flagrant disregard for recent history, Soviet medals from the second world war.

The buildings in the city are a mixture of baroque, classical and Romanesque, and are clustered around small squares. Some bear graffiti: "Purple Haze", "Led Zeppelin" and "Free".

A few of the squares are described as "predominantly Jewish". Jews made up nearly half the population of Vilnius before the second world war, when they and nearly all of the ghetto inhabitants were killed. Now only one of nearly 100 synagogues remains.

Our tour guide told us there were only 5,000 Jews left in the city, which was once called "the Lithuanian Jerusalem". She said that the Jews were leaving to go to Israel, because "they wanted to, not because they are being persecuted here".

Eighteen miles out of the city is Trakai Fort, a monument to 15th-century aristocratic excess. Once the playground of the rich, it is now an excellent museum. It is the stuff of fairy-tales, with spiralling towers, minstrels' galleries and balconies, and it is not difficult to be transported back to the medieval times of history books, where everyone made merry round a roaring fire, sang rowdy songs, became bawdy and gorged themselves on the meat of a roast suckling pig, sizzling on the spit. Even in the imagination there is no escape from pork here.

Take warm clothes, dollars, sensible footwear, and leave the rest to the citizens of Vilnius. They are helpful, many of them speak English, and they are anxious to chat to westerners. Come away from Vilnius laden with garlands of inexpensive amber, fur hats and vodka, and a small, but valuable, understanding of a city only just coming to terms with its turbulent history.

KATE ALDERSON

Getting there

- The author took a weekend break with Insome Leisure (071-377 1859), which specialises in travel to Russia and the Baltic republics. Prices of tailor-made breaks start at £293. No visa is required for Lithuania. The company also offers a 14-night tour of the Baltic republics from £839, including hotels, travel and meals.
- Lithuanian Airlines (0444 400100) flies from Heathrow to Vilnius (three hours) on Saturdays and Mondays. Low-season return costs £225.
- Swan Hellenic (071-831 1616) offers a 15-day art treasure tour of the Baltics, plus St Petersburg, at £1,595 inclusive. Martin Randall Travel (081-994 6477) organises art and architecture tours from £890.

Pet loves and hates

Lynne Greenwood on the pleasures and perils of giving animals as presents

Gopal Dotta has found the perfect pet for parents whose love of animals does not extend to increasing the number of hungry, noisy, dirty and demanding creatures already at home. He keeps a couple of stick insects which, if they do not escape, eat little and are silent, clean and totally undemanding.

Gopal, 12, chose the twig-like creatures after previous requests for a snake and frogs were turned down by his normally tolerant mother. "I like the unusual," he says. "A friend of my mother used to breed stick insects and I decided I would like a couple." On first inspection, the two creatures, almost impossible to detect as they cling motionless to the underside of ivy and privet leaves, or lie prone on the bottom of their goldfish bowl home, do not offer the playfulness and friendship many children expect from a pet.

But Gopal is happy to feel their clinging "feet" running across his hands and arms, and is interested to watch them grow. His first two insects laid eggs — an average of 500 each — but they never hatched. Now, after reading much more about their ways, he is ready to put the eggs in a separate container and wait as long as ten months for them to hatch.

"We do know someone whose insects got out and laid eggs in the house and eventually they had to have the exterminators in," he says calmly. "Mine have escaped once, but we spotted them walking up the wall." Gopal cleans out their home regularly, and gives them a fresh supply of leaves, which is all they require, from neighbours' gardens.

His mother, teacher Mrs Hemant Gopal, says: "Last time we went to India Gopal wanted to bring back a snake. He was so upset at not being allowed to, I had to buy him a wooden one. More recently he wanted to have frogs, but I didn't think I could cope with them in the house."

At some time or other, most children want a pet. If parents are not enthusiastic animal lovers, they must be patient, tolerant, and willing to learn the whimsical ways of fish, mice, rabbits, snakes, birds, dogs and horses.



JOHN HOULIHAN/GUZELIAN

Stuck on stick insects: Gopal Dotta with his silent, clean and undemanding pair of pets — until they escape and multiply, that is

But we are not all spoilsports, and most parents usually give in under the pressure of "it's not fair", "all my friends have one", and the inevitable "I *promise* I'll look after it". There, of course, is the rub. Every parent who has ever poured away the murky contents of a goldfish bowl or mucked out a pony on a freezing, wet winter afternoon knows the truth of that remark.

The chief veterinary officer of the RSPCA, Terence Bate, makes the position quite clear. "The important thing to remember is that buying a pet must be a conscious family decision. In no way must parents get an animal for a child alone, because in the end the legal, moral and ethical responsibilities lie with them."

RSPCA research carried out in the weeks before Christmas showed that 12 per cent of people believed a puppy or kitten would make a good present for a child, and a misguided 47 per cent thought a young animal would be a suitable gift for an elderly person. The post-Christmas increase in inmates in RSPCA's homes proves otherwise. Last year at its Liverpool home, 26 unwanted pets were left between December 27 and New Year's eve. But the real peak comes in the period when the novelty wears off, and the animals grow bigger, hungrier, more boisterous and more expensive.

Queenie was a mare bought for £450 by a couple for their five children as a surprise Christmas present. When an RSPCA inspector rescued her months later, she was so neglected and starved she was unable to stand. Queenie had to be destroyed.

Many pet shop owners now refuse to sell puppies or kittens in the week before Christmas. They know the problems of impulse buys at any time of the year.

Peter Hemingway, owner of The Living World in Leeds, one of the country's largest pet and aquatic stores, says customers often ring within a few days of buying a pet, asking if they may return it. "We always take the pets back — we would rather do that than risk their being abandoned — but we do not give refunds. We hope people will learn a lesson from the experience."

Hamsters and gerbils are the most popular pets for children, he says, selling at between £2.50 and £6. They are now more popular than rabbits, because they are more convenient and can be kept indoors. But even the humble hamster can demand stylish living. Mr Hemingway has sold several four-storey hamster homes, complete with every possible accessory, including a "Spaghetti Junction" of inter-connecting loops, at a cost of £100.

Martin Salmon, aged ten, is a member of the RSPCA and the RSPB, and animal mad. At home he has six budgies, two gerbils (which at one point increased to 20) and a rabbit. His goldfish died.

"Our teacher had gerbils but she made us pass a certificate on how to look after them before she let us take any home," he says. "We had to find out how to look after them, how to feed them and what to do when they were poorly. I had two at first but they bred. We once left them with my grandma when we went away, and when we came back there were 11."

His mother, Sheila Salmon, a university clerk who remembers breeding mice as a child, says: "I think pets teach children about responsibility. They have got to think not just about themselves, but about the needs of the animal."

The needs of all animals are varied and great. Even those of a gerbil fill one of the RSPCA's "Pet Care" guides aimed at children. As well as the obvious needs of the correct diet, they must have plenty of material for burrowing, a gnawing block of soft wood to wear down long teeth, toys to play with and the companionship of other gerbils.

One of the hardest times for children is when their pet dies. Even to find the goldfish floating upside down in its bowl can cause tears. Stand by with a shoe box for a garden burial.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

HOWARD DAVIES

Director-general of the CBI



Where would you go?
To Shropshire.

How would you get there?
Quite slowly, in my Land-Rover.

Where would you stay?
At Clive of India's house, Walcot, in Lydbury North. Built with money looted from India, the house is primarily 18th-century. In front is a large lake which was built by French prisoners during the Napoleonic wars. It is a magnificent place and, although not open for tours, you can rent the top floor. We have done so 15 times already and never tire of the house, the grounds and the magnificent arboretum.

Who would be your perfect companion?
My wife, our two small boys, Archie and George, and a builder from Kent called Steve Page.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
A cricket box.

What medicines would accompany you?
Alka Seltzer.

What would you have to eat?
Large greasy breakfasts (cooked by the builder).

What would you have to drink?
Quite a lot, I'm afraid.

Which books would you take to read?
Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.

What music would you listen to?
Intimations of Immorality by Gerald Finzi, which I found in a second-hand record shop in Bishop's Castle.

What would you watch on television?
Nothing.

Which newspapers or journals would you read?
The Independent, if any.

What luxury would you take?
A new Duncan Fearnley bat.

Would you play any games or sport?
I would play for my cricket team, Barnes Common, against Church Stretton and Bromfield. Managed by the builders, my team has played these fixtures for many years. I normally bat number seven or eight and stand on the boundary. Standing at long leg on the recreation ground at Church Stretton, watching rain clouds loom over the Long Mynd, is the start of my turning year. I think important thoughts, which I have forgotten by the evening.

What piece of art would you like to have there?
Craft would be more useful. The ability to bowl a tidy off-break, for example.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
My assiduous secretary, Susan Berry, bearing a fax.

What three things would you leave behind?
My dictating machine, my briefcase and, on past experience, one vital part of my cricket kit.

What three things would you most like to do?
1. Have lunch with David Lees, the chairman of GKN, and his wife Mary in Shrewsbury. I am a director of GKN and we always visit them when we are in Shropshire. 2. Walk the Long Mynd, which is a long range of hills. 3. Score a run, which would be an improvement on last year.

To whom would you send a postcard?
To my godson, Michael.

What souvenir would you bring home?
A piece of polished yew from a man in Bishop's Castle who makes paperweights and doorstops.

What would you like to find when you got home?
A letter from the CBI's landlords, asking us to vacate Centre Point.

Interview by Rosamund Greenstreet

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

ACROSS

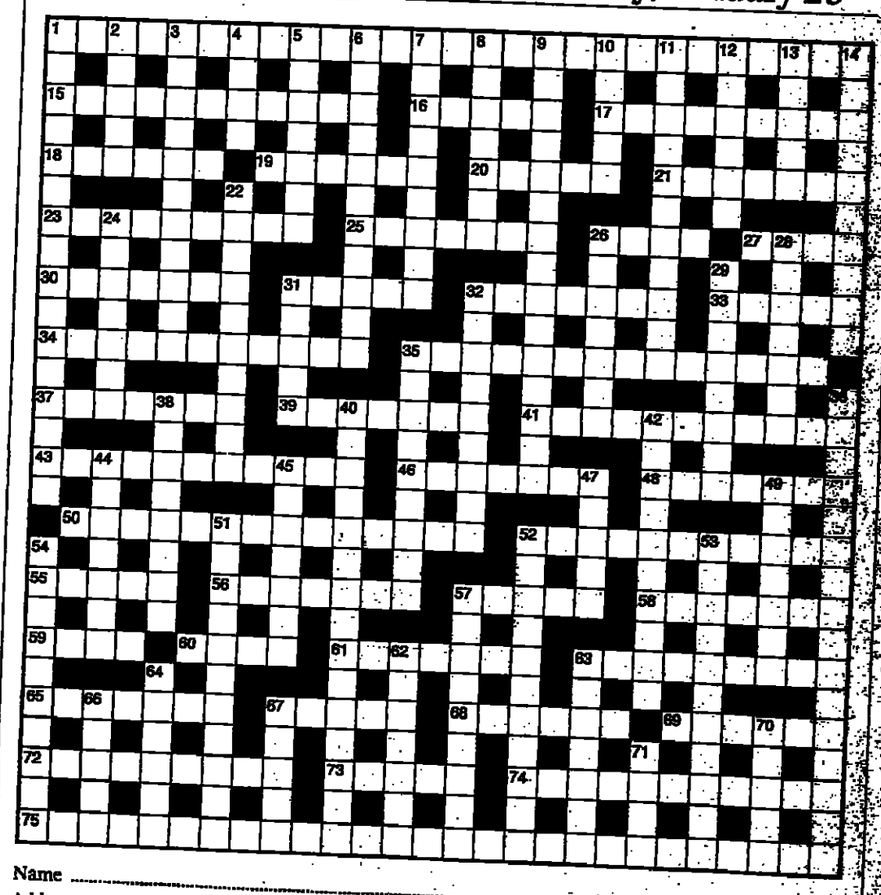
1 Christy Mahon, occidental profligate (3,7,2,3,7,5)
15 This old man worked near the land (11)
16 Partner no longer due to break out in sweat (5)
17 Having a skin-eruption — like in us, would you say? (9)
18 Call for the weaker batsmen to follow England's openers (6)
19 Bright star displays a scattered trail (6)
20 The sovereign bound to circulate for ever? (5)
21 Short Irish model from a family rather like Lily's, we hear (7)
23 Elected Conservative to go in, curiously, under an assumed name (9)
25 Amount saved for example, held by foreign gents? (4-3)
26 Cut off and say goodbye? (4)
27 Article about half-sovereign of similar nature (4)
30 Roman magistrate with old wife in harmony (7)
31 Coming before a superior (5)
32 Golden bridges, say, not opening? (7)
33 Public in Dover tournament . . . (5)
34 . . . selecting those who are going to try? (11)
35 Beginning to rub, I heal most gout with manipulation (14)
37 Shipping hazard is submarine, mainly (7)
39 Drinking vessel one handled, you might say (7)
41 Exaggerate remaining prison sentence (11)
43 The bread Eli distributed can be passed on (11)
46 Handsome monkey in a Greuze original (7)
48 Greeting unrelenting bad weather (3,4)
50 Medicine for the fit? (14)
52 Cook helps braise ingredients easily spoilt (11)
55 Impassive old boy (5)
56 Endlessly dense, fat oaf (7)
57 Haggard-depicted? (5)
58 Bicycle-pedal used in desert vehicle? (3-4)
59 Fly back a touch (4)
60 Drink like a fish (4)
61 Embroidered lace on society-girl could be a disaster (7)
63 Guarantee of cover for the term (9)
65 End of movement in symphony is exciting stuff (7)
67 Half boil, cutting off heat and make poor tea (5)
68 Land up in Lemuel's itinerary? (6)
69 Physicist bored, you say, with his constant follower? (6)
72 Reportedly overlook a traffic warning and select the wrong way (9)
73 Break out like a hotly-tipped mount (5)
74 Bath, the original location of such a legal principle? (11)
75 It is recommended that those in flights of fancy be jumbo-powered! (5,6,4,4,8)

DOWN

1 Fitzgerald's title of his, then, ridge-tent maker? (6,2,3,5)
2 Precise weapon thrown up and caught (5)
3 Staying at the wheel — the duty of railmen away from home (7,4)
4 Get out of royal house (4)
5 Heart of Midlothian greeting in play (7)
6 Representation denied to the ill-favoured? (3,8)
7 Hero tries to reform speculator (9)
8 As subtle as Sir Percy Blakeney? (7)
9 This late bloomer never impinges or grows wild (7,8)
10 One grabs cards left on the table (5)
11 Like the corvine flight path? (11)
12 Tiny, repulsive, tailless insect (6)
13 Flower for right-hand man? (5)
14 How to make barnacle bare? (10)
22 Granny Smith's trouble could be brief and inconsequential (4-6)
24 Ruin cold wave (7)
26 Create a colony to include a major port (7)
28 Kosher diet? (7)
29 Irregular measures taken by the Spanish in support of famous bank (8)
31 Dot, Bill, Mark or Spike? (5)
32 Noon intended, say, for repair (9)
35 Stern defender of party's entrenched element? (9)
36 Plato's ruling elite — those who act calmly around sovereign (11,5)
38 Jock's strange better half with child, possibly? (8)
40 Intense rivalry and furious hatred, the stock-in-trade of . . . (6,3,6)
42 . . . this woman who makes joints lock (10)
44 Proceed to support managed capital (7)
45 Oyster could be viable out of mid-river (7)
47 Part of stage not necessarily used for kitchen-sink drama? (5)
49 Banking flap — no lire exchanged after the first of April! (7)
51 Fussy, like a wife (3-8)
52 The instrumentalist is automatically redundant after this switch-round (6-5)
53 Such figures overlie a lot when sculpted? (4-7)
54 Not all his other malt is stored at the same temperature (10)
57 Upset fortified vermouth — about two gallons! (9)
62 Display of daring from supporter, seen in Paris with an exhibitor (7)
63 Formic indigestion remedy? (7)
64 Dukes holding royal degrees? (6)
66 The Ring is, as translated, a musical alternative (5)
67 Language to prohibit the second person singular? (5)
70 Chap upset about onset of embarrassing spots (5)
71 Extra broad (4)

ENTRY FOR POWER CROSSWORD

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, January 18. Entries should be sent to Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will appear on Saturday, January 23



Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

SOLUTION TO YESTERDAY'S CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2985

ACROSS: 1 Vicious circle 8 Coast 9 Milksop 10 Hub 11 Olive 12 Rampage 14 In two's 16 Nimbus 20 Cockade 23 Gaffe 24 Far 25 One time 26 On air 27 Strong support

DOWN: 1 Victoria Cross 2 Chariot 3 On the go 4 Sombre 5 Islam 6 Costa 7 Express regret 13 Pom 15 Wok 17 In group 18 Buffalo 19 Defers 21 Cheer 22 Asian

New Year Concise Jumbo Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will be published on Monday

ACROSS

1 Opening up to [illegible] (7,2,3,3,2,3,5)
15 Chimney in-[illegible] (5,6)
16 Robber (5)
17 Apportioning (7,2)
18 Ad-random (6)
19 Not spotted (6)
20 Horse bright sea-[illegible] (5)
21 Body conditioner (7)
23 [illegible] (9)
25 Sense of prickle (7)
27 [illegible] (4)
28 [illegible] (5)
29 [illegible] (7)
30 [illegible] (8)
31 Escape seat (7)
34 Church in-[illegible] (6)
35 The grounds of [illegible] (13)
36 Reflective (14)
37 Story teller (7)
39 [illegible] of tension (7)
41 Hardy outgrowth (11)
43 Totally fail (5-1-5)
44 Continually in [illegible] (5,2)
46 Flower arrange-ment (7)
50 In tiptoe fash-ion (14)
52 Put work out (11)
55 Slack (5)
56 Chauffeurs (5)
57 Weird (5)
58 Kin (7)
59 Try out (4)
60 Mimic (4)
61 Trite speech (7)
63 Paper (5,5)
65 Milk (7)
67 Scoundrel (5)
69 Spark (6)
69 Hand-gun (6)
72 Thermoplastic material (9)
73 Heel (5)
74 Components (11)
75 Three Choir Festival cathedrals (10,5,8)

DOWN

1 Early Tanganyika (6,4,6)
2 Zesty (5)
3 Caesar's fatal time (4,2,5)
4 Smooth-tongued (4)
5 Beatings (7)
6 Earthly (11)
7 Meaning (9)
8 Describing [illegible] name (7,4)
9 Helplessness (13)
10 Attention centre (5)
11 Reckless, irresponsible (5-6)
12 Idle fancy (6)
13 Orphanage (5)
14 Scientific test (10)
22 Object of infatuation (10)
24 Advice (7)
26 In [illegible] topically humorous style (7)
28 Screw down (7)
29 Cliff road (8)
31 Confronted (5)
32 Ceaseless (9)
35 Insinuations (9)
36 Organised by-tions (16)
38 Pay attention (4,4)
40 Look ahead (4,3,4,4)
42 Newspaper chair (10)
44 Foreboding evil (7)
45 Female slave (7)
47 Aristocrat (5)
49 Oklahoma Plains Indian (9)
51 Vile ugliness (11)
52 Fortified place (11)
53 Killing of despot (11)
54 Washing line pin (10)
57 Earthquake hub (9)
62 Artist's studio (7)
63 Moaner (7)
64 Sexually arousing (6)
66 Nick -, golfer (5)
67 Manorial steward (5)
70 Circular painting (5)
71 Summer bazaar (4)

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Ornamental flair with flotsam

With imagination and talent, junk can be transformed into attractive decoration, says Kay Marles

ADRIAN BROOKS



Hanging baskets: Charles Worthington has furnished his kitchen at his cottage in Sussex with prizes picked up at car-boot sales

Imagine using a sheep's horn as a coat hook, a collection of rusty ships' propellers as the centrepiece on a coffee table, or an old greenhouse bench as a rack for kitchen pots and pans. Bizarre, you might think, but such are the tricks and experiments of people who decorate with junk.

Junk has always held a fascination for imaginative, inventive home-owners: now it is truly coming into its own. The beauty of junk, of course, is that most of it can be found free in your own backyard or lumber box, or littering local beauty spots or open spaces, or can be picked up for next to nothing in markets and car-boot sales. With a bit of effort and cleaning up, bargain furnishing can become a real pleasure.

An interior designer who has made something of a speciality of decorating with junk is Derek Frost, who numbers among his clients Sir Edward Heath and Pink Floyd's Nick Mason. In Mr Frost's country house, an 1870s coast-guard's cottage low on a bank of the Solent, his furnishings include dried roots, parts of bricks, old wooden key plates, and even a discarded hairbrush with no bristles, that have all been carefully arranged to look like *objets d'art* on tables and mantelpieces and in the kitchen.

Collecting debris is all very well, you might think, for someone with a designer's eye and ingenuity, but what about the rest of us? By spraying pieces of driftwood, hauling in armfuls of foliage from the garden and using heaps of old berries and pine cones in collections or decorative patterns, it is possible to transform a dull sitting room into a space bursting with new colour and shapes.

Mr Frost recommends several other hunting grounds. "Beaches provide an excellent source for decorative objects," he says. "Anything that has been subjected to the effect of water tends to take on a changed character. Boat marinas and scrapyards are also often littered with shells, stones and pieces of driftwood that will polish up like leather. You can give them a lovely patina with teak oil and polish or just leave them rough."

One feature of using junk decoratively is that quantity tends to be all important. It is often only when similar objects are grouped together that they look like anything at all. With shells, for example, Mr Frost recommends either hoarding them together in baskets in the bathroom, or using them in copious quantities, filled with Polyfilla and glued to the wall, as part of a frieze. "Anything that is beautiful, or just well made for a function, such as old hand-tools, can be made to look good," he says. "But it is better to have several and to make a pattern from them than to make them look as though they have just been left lying around."

Another weekend cottage dweller who has become addicted to junk is Charles Worthington, one of London's leading hairdressers, who visits car-boot sales every weekend to furnish his cottage in Sussex.

"Country car-boot sales tend to be free from dealers," he says. "I get pretty unhappy if I have to miss one. It is a wonderful feeling to get home with a box of goodies that have cost £5. And I get much more satisfaction from my own creativity than from buying someone else's."

His purchases have included 15 baskets, bought for £4, which he hangs from the beams in his 1830s kitchen. He has bought a well weathered and battered slatted shelf from a greenhouse for £2, which he uses for storing pans. In France, he picked up ten florist's buckets for £1 and countless worn terracotta pots for 5p each, which he has filled with church candles and dried flowers bought from New Covent Garden market.

"It can be difficult to pick out something nice when everything is surrounded by rubbish," he says. "You have to be able to block off everything else you see. Certain objects, once out of context and in your own home, can be transformed. I scan quickly and get around in about 45 minutes. Mostly I look for distinctive shapes. Then I go home and do up what I've bought."

A couple who fill their house with accumulated objects are children's book illustrator Nicola Bailey, who collects theatrical clothes, skulls, stuffed birds and matchboxes, and her husband, opera critic John Hilton, who has papered his study with postcards, posters and opera programmes.

In a similar vein, Mr Frost recommends decorating walls and furniture with playing cards and racing cards, or using leaves and feathers as stencils to make patterns. He too uses skulls, bones and horns for decorative purposes, as well as bowls full of seeds and pips, old nails from hardware stores to make studded patterns on doors, dried starfish, gourds and old jars and bottles — in fact, almost anything he comes across.

"The appeal is that it is cheap and individual," he says. "But you need to play around with things until they look right."

You also need to appreciate the potential of familiar objects that we have all taken for granted for years.

Bring a home from home

Buyer's France

FURNISHING

UNTIL this month, British owners of second homes in France who wanted to take furniture and other items from the UK had to obtain permission from French customs for free entry for their goods (which involved a great deal of paperwork), and pay duty and French value-added tax on any new items.

Now all that has changed. New European Community legislation, which came into force yesterday, effectively scraps import duty and allows the free movement of goods between countries within the EC. There are no longer any official hoops to go through: you are allowed to import for your home in France furniture and other domestic goods, new or old, and even previously restricted items like fitted kitchens and building materials, free of duty and French VAT.

When shopping for furniture and other domestic items for a French home, it is wise to weigh up the pros and cons of buying in Britain or in France. You might be better off buying that three-piece suite in Britain, even if it means hiring a van and driving it over yourself.

Buying furniture and other household goods in France can be a let-down. Many Britons rush off to the local furniture superstore to fill their newly acquired home as swiftly as possible, only to discover that, when it comes to furnishing, the choice in France is limited, at least compared with British stores, and the days when France was cheap have long gone.

Beds are more expensive in France, as the base, mattress and legs are sold separately. Sofa-beds, for example, are better value in Britain. Electrical goods also cost more in France. The French never use kettles but boil their water in saucepans. With adaptors, small British appliances such as kettles and toasters will work, albeit less efficiently.

It is wise, however, to buy larger kitchen appliances — fridge, dishwasher and washing machine — locally. Because of voltage differences, any appliance you take over is unlikely to work properly, and you will have problems getting it repaired or serviced. Look out for special bargain weeks at household appliance stores.

Most French homes have shutters, so there is no need to rush to buy curtains. Apart from lace, the choice of fabric in France is limited, and you could spend more than you bargained for. French windows generally open inwards, so pelmets are out. Curtain rails are cheaper in Britain.

If you must first launch into redecoration or need to install a new kitchen or bath, you will find a better choice of paint, wallpaper, kitchen units and bathroom suites in Britain. Pipes for plumbing are best bought on the spot. The same applies to wall tiles. Buy them from factory outlets where prices are cheaper.

If you are satisfied with floor tiles and rugs, buy them in France. Good quality carpets are better value in Britain. Garden furniture, on the other hand, is best bought on the other side of the Channel.

Buying old in France is often more expensive than buying new. Serious antique shops *(antiquités)* are expensive. Your best bet is to scour the nearest *brocante*, where you will find a vast range of old furniture and decorative bits and pieces from the 19th and 20th centuries. There is always a chance of a bargain.

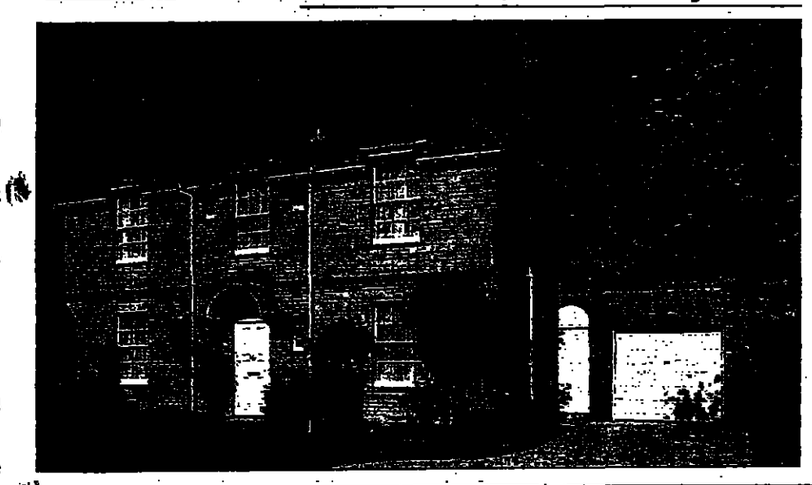
Another source of good second-hand items is the local *dépôt de vente*. The *dépôts* take anything and everything on a sale-or-return basis. Buying or selling through them enables you to upgrade or get rid of unwanted pieces.

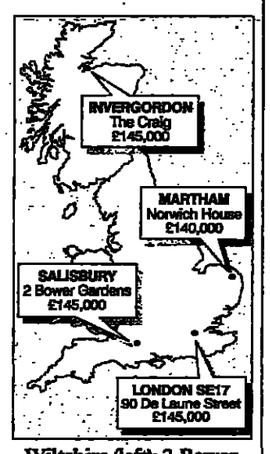
Many provincial towns hold weekly fairs *(foire à tous)*, the equivalent of our car-boot sales. If you rummage long enough, you may be lucky. Also, try the local auction room *(salle des ventes)* for everything from old brass bedsteads, wardrobes *(armoires)* and chests of drawers to rush-seated chairs and farmhouse tables. Prices are reasonable, and you may find what you are looking for. Even if you do not, it is certainly a lot more fun than the furniture superstore.

CHERYL TAYLOR

FOR SALE about £145,000

Caroline Morse finds a stone-built property in Scotland, Georgian house in Norfolk, end-of-terrace in south London, and Salisbury home

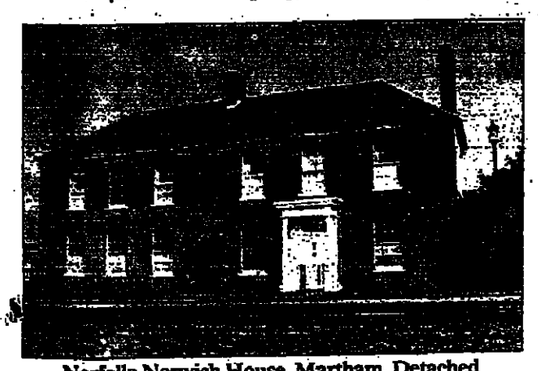




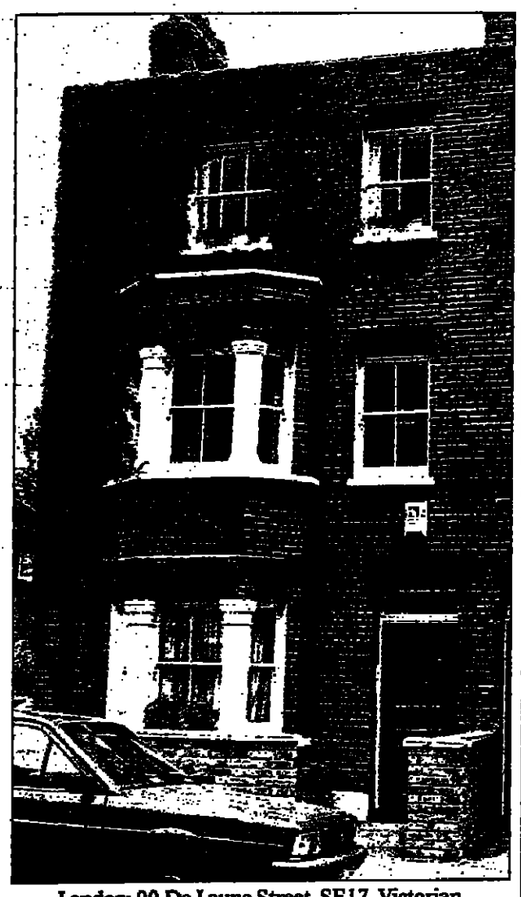
Wiltshire (left): 2 Bower Gardens, Salisbury. Georgian style detached residence. Three bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom. About £148,000 (contact Strutt & Parker, 0722 328741).



Scotland: "The Craig", Invergordon. Late 19th-century detached stone-built residence with half an acre. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, en suite shower room, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room. Double garage and outbuildings. About £145,000 (contact GA Property, 0349 853737).



Norfolk: Norwich House, Martham. Detached Georgian house overlooking village green. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), two reception rooms, kitchen. Outbuildings, coal store, kennel and walled garden. About £140,000 (contact Bidwells 0603 763939).



London: 90 De Laune Street, SE17. Victorian end-terrace house with landscaped rear garden. Four bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, triple-aspect living room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room. About £145,000 (contact Barnard Marcus 071-735 0922).

PROPERTY BUYERS GUIDE

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ABBOTTS ANN, ANDOVER
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Until 16 Jan 2.30 & 7.30	THE NUTCRACKER - ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET Ben Stevenson (choreographer), Tchaikovsky's score. Matinees 2, 9, 16 Jan. No performance on Sundays. Special offers available ENB/SBC
Sun 3 Jan 5.30	DIGITAL GENEE AWARDS 1993 Among the world's most prestigious ballet student awards. The evening includes two pas de deux by principal dancers from the world's leading ballet companies. £16, £14, £12 Royal Academy of Dancing

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

4/5/6 Jan 10am-5.30pm	ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCING ASSEMBLY 1993 Presentations, demonstrations and lectures. More info and tickets available from RAD 071-223 0091 Royal Academy of Dancing
Fri 8 Jan 7.45	DOCKLANDS SINFONIETTA George Hurst (conductor) Ronan O'Hora (piano). Beethoven Overture, Egmont; Schoenberg Chamber Symphony No.2; Brahms Piano Concerto No.2 £15, £12, £9, £7, £6 Docklands Sinfonietta

PURCELL ROOM

Fri 8 Jan 8.00	THE EURO SHOW 1993 and all that... With Andy Read (piano). Stewart Collins and Nichola Christie deliver their verdict on Europe, abetted by the words and music of Rossini, Wagner, Jacques Brel and Victoria Wood. £9, £7, £5.50 Stewart Collins

WIGMORE HALL
36 Wigmore Street London W1H 0DF

Saturday 2 January 7.30 pm	RALPH KIRSHBAUM cello. Chamber Music Series. JS Bach: Suites No 1 in G BWV1007; No.3 in C BWV1009; No.5 in C minor BWV1011 *First of two concerts.* £12, £10, £8, £6
Sunday 3 January 11.30 am NB: starting time	THOMAS ZEHETMAIR violin. Sunday Morning Coffee Concert. Paganini: 8 Caprices; JS Bach: Partita No 2 in D minor BWV1004 (includes Chaconne) £6 including programme & coffee/sherry/juice
Monday 4 January 7.30 pm	ISABELLE VERNET soprano. MARIE-JEANNE SERERO piano. Song Recital Series. Mélodies by Fauré, Poulenc, Hahn, Duparc, Satie, Ravel & Rosenthal. £12, £10, £8 (all others sold)
Tuesday 5 January 7.30 pm	RALPH KIRSHBAUM cello. Chamber Music Series. JS Bach: Suites No.2 in D minor BWV1008; No.4 in E flat BWV1010; No 6 in D BWV1012. *Second of two concerts.* £12, £10, £8, £6
6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23 January 7.30 pm	ANDRAS SCHIFF piano SCHUBERT: THE PIANO SONATAS. Schubert Series. 6 Jan: D566, D840, D845; 9 Jan: D279, D784, D850; 13 Jan: D557, D575, D894; 16 Jan: D157, D664, D958; 20 Jan: D459, D537, D959; 23 Jan: D625/505, D568, D960. ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only)
Thursday 7 January 7.30 pm	LONDON WINDS. Chamber Music Series. Michael Collins director; Noriko Ogawa piano POULENC BIRTHDAY CONCERT; Poulenc: Trio for oboe, bassoon & piano. Elégie for horn & piano; Clarinet Sonata; Flute Sonata; Oboe Sonata; Sextet for piano/wind. £12, £10, £8, £6
Fri 8 - 6pm Sun 10 - 4pm NB: starting times	ANNE SOFIE VON OTTER mezzo soprano, OLAF BAR baritone, GEOFFREY PARSONS piano. Song Recital Series. Wolf: Spanisches Liederbuch, complete. (10 Jan. concert is a repeat programme of 8 Jan.) £25, £20 (all others sold) (8 Jan Sponsored by The Friends of Wigmore Hall)

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the BARBICAN
Box Office/CC 071-638 8891

TOMORROW at 7.30 pm

BEETHOVEN

Overture, Coriolan
Piano Concerto No.5, *Emperor*
Symphony No.6, *Pastoral*

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
ADRIAN LEAPER conductor PIERS LANE piano
£9.50, £13.50, £17.50, £19.50, £22.50

SUNDAY 24 JANUARY at 8 pm

VERDI GALA NIGHT

A feast of excerpts and arias from the works of opera's greatest composer including
RIGOLETTO Quartet; NABUCCO Hebrew Slaves Chorus; IL TROVATORE Anvil Chorus & Miserere; AIDA Duet, Trio & Grand March; LA FORZA DEL DESTINO Pace Pace; DON CARLOS Friendship Duet, Per Me Giunta, O Don Fatale; LA TRAVIATA Brindisi, Di Provenza; OTELLO Willow Song, Ave Maria, Si Per Ciel
SUSAN BULLOCK sop, FIONA KIMM mezzo, EDMUND BARHAM ten ANTHONY MICHAELS-MOORE b'tone, LONDON CHORAL SCTY BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS FANFARE TRUMPETERS LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA, PAUL WYNNE-GRIFFITHS cond
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at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
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THE FOUR SEASONS

HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
MOZART Eine kleine Nachtmusik
MOZART Piano Concerto No.23, K488
VIVALDI The Four Seasons
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
PHILIP LEDGER conductor
ANTHONY MARWOOD vln JAMES LISNEY pno
£6.50, £8.50, £11.50, £15, £17, £19, £21

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071-638 8891 9AM - 8PM DAILY

Ton't 2 Jan 7.30pm	LSO SERVICETEC NEW YEAR FAMILY CONCERTS London Symphony Orchestra, John Georgiadis cond. A programme of waltzes, marches and polkas by Ziehrer, Eduard Strauss, J Strauss I & II and Josef Strauss £5-£15 SPONSORED BY SERVICETEC INTERNATIONAL
Tomor 3 Jan 3.00pm	THAT'S CRICKET Brian Johnston, David Lloyd, Chris Cowdrey, Micky Stewart, Kevin Connelly. Special return performance to mark Brian Johnston's 80th Birthday year. Another leisurely and amusing look at the world of cricket, past and present. All seats £9.50, Children under 16, OAPS £8 R. Gubbay Ltd.
Tomor 3 Jan 7.30pm	BEETHOVEN EVENING Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Adrian Leaper cond., Piers Lane piano. Beethoven Coriolan Ov., Piano Concerto No.5 Emperor; Symphony No.6 Pastoral Raymond Gubbay Ltd.
Thu/Sun 7/10 Jan 7.30pm	ORFF CARMINA BURANA London Symphony Orchestra, Richard Hickox cond., Janice Watson, Michael Chance, Donald Maxwell soloists. London Symphony Chorus, Southend Boys Choir. Prog also inc. (7 Jan) Vaughan Williams Ov. The Wasps William Alwyn Symphony No.3 (Jan 10) Elgar Alassio In The South William Alwyn Symphony No.5 Hydriotaphia £8 £9.50 £13 £15 £20 £28 LSO Ltd.

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In association with LFO

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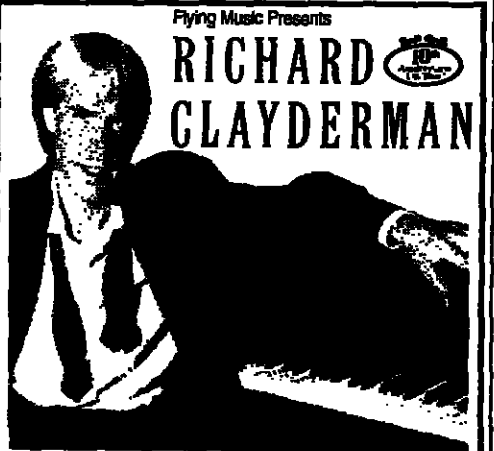
at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SATURDAY 23 JANUARY at 7.30

GRAND OPERA GALA

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Cond: *DAVID COLEMAN*
FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS
PRO MUSICA CHORUS KENTISH OPERA CHORUS
Soprano: *JULIE DALTON* Tenor: *BRUCE RANKIN*
Baritone: *STEVEN PAGE*
Overture THE BARTERED BRIDE, **Papageno's Song, Dies Bildnis** THE MAGIC FLUTE, **Chorus of Hebrew Slaves** NABUCCO, **Vissi d'arte** TOSCA, **Valentine's Cavatina** FAUST, **Che gelida manina, Si, mi chiamano Mimi, O soave fanciulla** LA BOHEME, **Polovtsian Dances** PRINCE IGOR, **Grand March** AIDA, **Brindisi** LA TRAVIATA, **Una furtiva lagrima** L'ELISIR D'AMORE, **Largo al factotum** THE BARBER OF SEVILLE, **O my beloved Daddy** GIANNI SCHICCHI, **Duet** THE PEARLFISHERS, **Dove sono** THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO, **Prelude to Act 3** LOHENGRIN, **Elizabeth's Greeting** TANNHAUSER **Final Trio & Chorus** FAUST, **Meditation** THAIS, **Nessun dorma, Final Scene** TURANDOT
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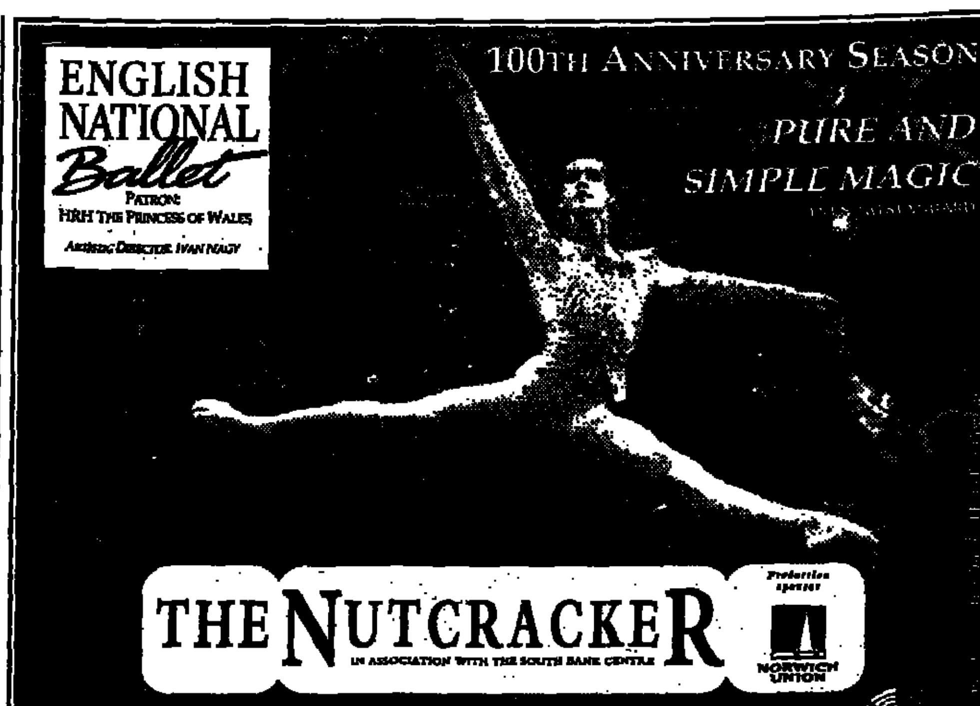
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18	BRIGHTON The Dome	0273 674357
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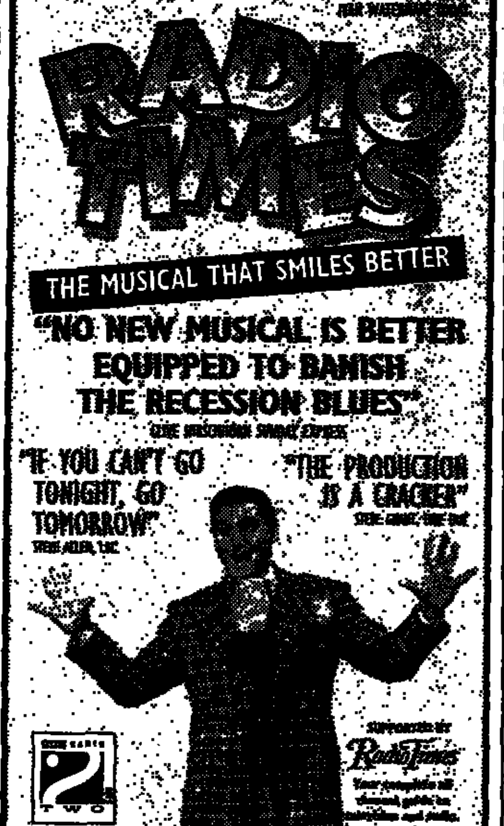
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هكذا من الأصل

Philip Pickett does not merely play early music, he reconstructs the lives of the early musicians to help him. **Nicolas Soames** met him

Hearing what Bach had for breakfast

As part of the preparation for his new recording of Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, Philip Pickett, recorder player and consort director, wrote *Behind the Mask*, a 25,000-word essay looking at the work, its influences and first performances. It was the culmination of months of poring over primary sources in a variety of languages and even measuring the kind of hall in the ducal palace in Mantua where performances took place in the 17th century. Pickett reduced it to 14,000 words for the CD booklet, and then to 3,000 for the programme notes. Then he went back to playing the music, taking Monteverdi performance a few steps further.

This kind of total hands-on activity typifies the passion of Pickett's player-scholar approach, and salutes the English attitude towards early music. It is more than two decades since David Munrow tipped complacent viol consorts off their stools and pioneered new professional standards for medieval music-making.

The old extrovert amateurishness has largely been replaced by highly polished, high-tech operations involving up-to-date research presented with musical flair and backed by a sophisticated use of marketing and media. These days, to be successful in the early-music business you have to be competitive, commercial, and know how to sell.

Most of Britain's leading figures in period performance — John Eliot Gardiner, Roger Norrington and Christopher Hogwood — have these qualities. They have also claimed larger audiences by moving strongly into the 19th century, using the big Renaissance and baroque choral and orchestral works as stepping stones.

Pickett has done things slightly differently. The director of the New London Consort, he established himself principally by sustained work in the medieval and Renaissance periods. Praetorius, *Carmina Burana* (the original medieval texts, not the Carl Orff version), and *The Pilgrimage to Santiago* are typical of his projects. He has ventured into the baroque too, playing and directing concertos by Vivaldi, Biber and Schmelzer; his recent volume of recorder concertos by Telemann prompted a considered essay on the effect of rhetoric, Cicero and Quintilian on concertos of the period. He is no less competitive than his peers, but he never really lost the affinity for hands-on experience learnt during his apprenticeship as a recorder player under Munrow himself.

> 'We spent days drilling holes in instruments and sticking tape over other holes'

"We spent days drilling holes in wind instruments and then sticking tape over other holes just to make them work," he says. "We also read a lot of source material — even if it was generally secondary source material. We read Donington's interpretation of what Tartini said, and delved into anthologies. When you ran out of that, you changed your repertoire."

That is no longer the case. Primary sources have replaced anthologies; sticking plaster is not to be seen. And, at the age of 42, there is a new determination. Increasingly, Pickett is staking a claim to a more central repertoire.



"We play the music in a more vivid way": director Philip Pickett (centre, with beard) and his New London Consort

The past two months have seen the revelatory performances of Monteverdi — the 1610 Vespers and *L'Orfeo*, both of which have been released on CD. On February 12, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, he continues with *Il Combattimento in Musica di Tancredi e Clorinda*; and two other works, *Tirsi e Clori* and *Il Ballo delle Ingrate*.

But tonight he opens a once-a-month early music series at the Purcell Room on the South Bank with Bach's Brandenburg Concertos — played as Bach intended, one player to a part. Again he intends to take a new line: "I have played the Brandenburgs many times," he says, "but I wanted to do them now partly because of my fiddle player, Pavlo Beznosiuk, who I think is a pretty major musician.

"But also I have many ideas about them, particularly concerning their philosophical background — the idea of *loci topici*, the ideas present in Bach's mind — which I think will make a great difference to the way they are played.

"Bach had to make a collection, and he chose these works in this particular order, and I think there is something interesting there. For example, the last one is about death and the soul, and what happens to it in life and as it approaches death, the death experience and after.

"I admit that this is rather conjectural thinking on my part, but it does fit in with what we know about Bach's symbolic use of instruments in the cantatas, his approach to rhetoric, his approach to the *Affekt* and to *loci topici* in general." Pickett admits that even his long-standing colleagues in the consort sometimes laugh at his ideas. "But they do trust me and, perhaps because we have images to project, we play the music in a more vivid way." This approach has proved crucial in the Monteverdi project.

> 'You have to explore every avenue: rhetoric, painting, architecture, philosophy'

Pickett believes that the technical problems in Renaissance music have largely been addressed — "I am not so worried about how you finger that scale or play that run" — but investigative work now has to cover non-musical sources as well.

"You have to explore every avenue. You have to be involved in rhetoric, for a start. From that stems painting, architecture, philosophy — they are all bound together." An understanding of the Renaissance humanistic and Neoplatonic tradition made him look afresh at Monteverdi and Striggio.

Pickett insists that it is not sufficient for the performing musician just to play. The playing must be informed by "the thoughts and the feelings of the people and the milieu in which a work was written".

He regrets that few leading mainstream musicians adopt this approach: "Alfred Brendel is an exception — and doesn't it show!"

However, he believes that this broader approach to music-making is gradually influencing concert life. For example, Graham Johnson's innovative programming in the song recital genre had its seeds, he believes, in his close contact with the period performance movement in the 1970s. This year, Pickett celebrates 15 years with his New London Consort. The range of works performed — from 1100 to 1740 — gives the consort a versatility which, he insists, does not compromise standards or integrity. He arrived at Monteverdi chronologically, so to speak, via the medieval and early Renaissance; and now comes to Bach in much the same way.

He now feels confident to leap freely around that period: among recordings awaiting release are Susato's *Danserye* of 1551, Biber's Requiem, and Blow's *Venus and Adonis*.

"If anyone says to me: 'Sorry, you can't be serious with a repertoire like that', I say, 'Sorry, *you* can't be serious with a repertoire of 50 years. You can't possibly know where it came from.' Unless you listen to our records."

● *The New London Consort plays at the Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800) tonight at 8pm.*

Ghost songs and moving spirits

Paying dues and paying due credit are the hallmarks of these releases

JAZZ RECORDS

When singers choose to dedicate their albums to Sarah Vaughan, it is usually the cue for another gruelling display of theatrics and vaulting arpeggios. But **Ian Shaw**'s live set *Ghost Songs* (Jazz House JHCD-025), recorded at Ronnie Scott's, avoids most of the pitfalls, with the help of studied ensemble work from a quartet led by the pianist Adrian York.

A fixture on the London club circuit, Shaw possesses a healthy appetite for songs which lie beyond the confines of the standard show tunes. One moment he can be glittering with the best of the crooners, the next he is strutting his stuff as a blue-eyed soul singer.

Some of the numbers are long on fluttery mannerisms and short on substance, and the rock-influenced arrangements of the likes of "Sophisticated Lady" will strike most traditionalists as incongruous at best. Yet Shaw has boundless curiosity and self-confidence and a determination to make his listeners approach old songs without preconceptions. That, surely, is the mark of a good jazz singer.

It is only a matter of weeks since I was enthusing over **Hank Jones**'s contribution to the Maybeck Recital Hall piano series. *Handful of Keys* (EmArcy 512737), his tribute to Fats Waller, is, if anything, even more rewarding. "The Jitterbug Waltz", "I've Got A Feeling I'm Falling" and "Keeping Out of Mischief Now" are all here.

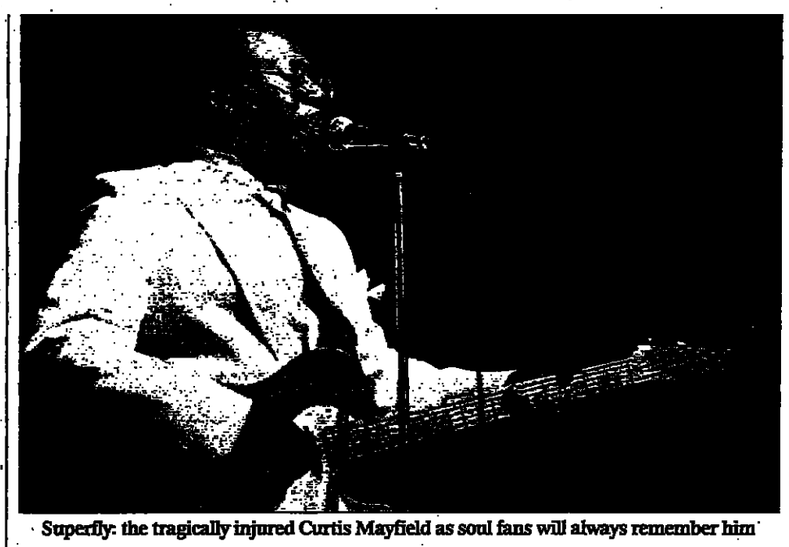
His readings tend to be slower and weightier than Waller's, with the left-hand stride patterns in particular given a more romantic sheen. A hint, perhaps, of how the great showman might have sounded had he lived to enjoy a serene old age.

Dizzy Gillespie's 75th birthday was marked with the release of *Dizzy's Diamonds: The Best of the Verve Years* (Verve 513875), a reasonable, if erratic, three-disc collection divided into big band, small group and Afro-Latin performances.

Ella Fitzgerald's apprenticeship with the **Chick Webb Orchestra** was documented on *The Early Years, Part 1* (MCA/Decca GRP-26182) — 43 tracks from 1935 to 1938, among them a surfeit of novelty tunes and ephemera. For hardcore addicts only.

Much more satisfactory is the triple-disc *A John Coltrane Retrospective: The Impulse! Years*' (Impulse! GRP-31192), which goes easy on the notorious "sheets of sound" and makes space for some of the saxophonist's more mellow utterances.

CLIVE DAVIS



Superfly: the tragically injured Curtis Mayfield as soul fans will always remember him

Move on up to class

ROCK RECORDS

Seventy minutes of Curtis Mayfield at a bargain price? Sounds good

With so many of today's soul men strutting around with rockets in their pockets, it may come as something of a relief to discover a newcomer who apparently harbours nothing more than old-fashioned romance in his heart. **Trey Lorenz** is the young singer who sparred with Mariah Carey on her hit single "I'll Be There"; and clearly anyone capable of tracking her seven-octave range has to be a gifted performer.

So it proves to be on Lorenz's eponymous solo debut, (Epic 472172), an 11-track collection of creamy love songs, many of them produced by Carey along with Walter Afanasieff (producer of Michael Bolton, Gladys Knight and many others). Whether negotiating the slowly unfurling peaks and troughs of a big ballad like "How Can I Say Goodbye" or punching out a more upbeat number like "Run Back To Me", Lorenz glides with practised ease from a relaxed tenor into an alarmingly high falsetto.

He makes a decent stab at a Bobby Brown-style swingbeat number, "Wipe All My Tears Away", but more in keeping with the general tone of the album is a competent version of Lionel Richie's syrupy ode to togetherness, "Just To Be Close To You".

Those looking for something with more bite are directed towards a new **Curtis Mayfield** compilation: *A Man Like Curtis — The Best of Curtis Mayfield* (MCI MUSCD 007). Mayfield's distinctive wah-wah guitar and wiry string arrangements became a hallmark of Seventies soul, while his distraught falsetto has been openly imitated by white artists from Mick Jagger to Paul Weller.

More importantly, he was also one of the first soul singers to incorporate a powerful element of social realism in his lyrics. With songs such as "Freddie's Dead", "Move On Up" and "(Don't Worry) If There's A Hell Below, We're All Going To Go", he paved the way for bigger stars such as Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye to tackle issues affecting black consciousness in their music.

Featuring those songs and others from the cream of Mayfield's (post-Impressions) solo recordings, this low-price (£7.99 CD/£4.99 cassette) 70-minute retrospective is a wondrous testament to the enduring influence of his work, although sadly the man himself remains permanently paralysed from the neck down after being struck by a falling lighting rig at the start of a concert in 1990.

Jools Holland, television presenter and erstwhile member of Squeeze, is a man who knows his way around the streets of London and the history of the piano. His attempt to mix the two on his cheerfully-presented album, *The A-Z Geographers' Guide To The Piano* (After Ego ALTGOCD 1), ends up as an entertaining muddle of musical styles and place names.

A brilliant boogie-woogie pianist with a frighteningly powerful left-hand technique, Holland is never better than when sharpening up his Meade Lux Lewis riffs on "Rotten Row Boogie", or stomping his way through the big band shuffle of "High Street (Ken)", but is somehow less convincing when it comes to the moody atmospherics of "Seven Dials" or the portentous neo-classicism of "Wapping Steps".

DAVID SINCLAIR

Violin virtuosity gets a workout in a searing performance

Mutter of life and death

CLASSICAL RECORDS

As a new year turns, music is caught looking backwards, forwards and spinning on its own still point in an exciting new recording by **Anne-Sophie Mutter**. With the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** and **James Levine** (DG 437 093-2), she matches Berg's Violin Concerto with a new work by Wolfgang Rihm which was written with her and Berg strongly in mind.

Rihm's *Gesungene Zeit*, translated here as "Time Chant", is a 24-minute sound-study for violin and small orchestra which follows the Berg, in Mutter's own words, "Like a prolongation: life after death". Rihm likes to regard instrumental virtuosity as an enhancement of vocal ability, and it is the live, singing intensity of Mutter's high notes which inspired this piece.

Another image Rihm gives is that of a singing rock, a nerve centre where musical energy is locked and vibrates as it stands still in time. This may sound a bit much, but nothing better describes what is going on in this remarkable piece.

The work has a searing, sometimes shocking, coherence of its own. Yet its extensive use of solo strings, its wide arching leaps and its mesmeric high-register writing makes it a thrilling complement to the Berg — and this is a particularly exciting performance of the Violin Concerto, too. Mutter's antennae pick up every second of febrile energy in a work which was written "to the memory of an angel", after the death of the daughter of Berg's close friends, Walter and Alma Gropius.

Levine and his orchestra, to say nothing of DG's recording engineers, respond in kind. Since **Itzhak Perlman**'s DG recording was withdrawn, there is no finer performance in the catalogue.



Mutter: singing intensity

—Perlman's Brahms, though, has come back again. He last recorded the Violin Concerto for EMI in 1976: this latest recording with the **Berlin Philharmonic** and **Daniel Barenboim** (EMI Classics 7 54580 2) resonates with all the excitement of a new encounter.

This is, not surprisingly, a high romantic reading of the concerto. The end of a solo phrase will sink luxuriantly into the ready embrace of the next orchestral phrase; double-stopping purrs sensuously, trills and dotted notes leap high into the air.

Barenboim creates a sense of abundant time and space, with the Berlin strings held firmly and radiantly in the acoustics of this live recording from the Berlin Schauspielhaus.

A satisfying little bridge between the respective worlds of these two recordings is offered by an enterprising coupling of Schoenberg's orchestral arrangement of Brahms's Piano Quartet in G Minor, and Berio's orchestration of the Op 120 No 1 Clarinet Sonata, in its world premiere recording.

The elegant Canadian clarinetist **James Campbell** is the soloist, with the **London Symphony Orchestra** conducted enthusiastically by **Geoffrey Simon** (Cala CACD1006).

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Robert Hewison on the heritage industry — in The Culture, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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7.30 Christopher Crocodile. Cartoon (r) (8861869) **7.35 Animal World.** In the last of the series Derek Griffiths looks at the national emblem of France, the cockerel (s) (8292604) **7.45 Quick Draw McGraw.** Wild west cartoon adventures (r) (8859024) **7.50 Littl' Bits.** Animation (r) (4080821) **8.15 Chuckleviaion.** Paul and Barry try their hand at running a bus company (4384258) **8.35 Peter Pan and the Pirates.** Animation (s) (2246666)

9.00 Gone Live! A special New Year edition in which Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield are joined *Neighbours* twins Gayle and Gillian Blakeney and by Judith Hann of *Tomorrow's World* (s) (93809005)

10.45 Film: Lassie — the Road Back (1969) starring Jed Allan. Injured in San Francisco's Chinatown when helping her master with a school project, Lassie suffers loss of memory and is taken to an animal clinic. A television contribution to the doggie saga, and rather below par. Directed by Dick Moder (5014685)

12.00 Cartoon Double Bill (9142802) **12.12 Weather** (4110983)

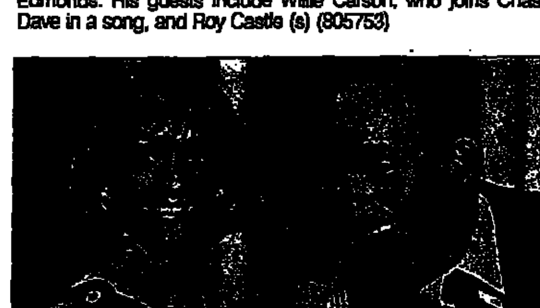
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5.15 News with Jennie Bond. Weather (6699314)

5.25 Regional News and sport (6785276). Wales: Five Nations Championship

5.30 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. Last in the game show series in which couples compete for a conveyor belt of goodies. (Ceefax) (s) (82482)

6.30 Noel's House Party. Resistible fun and games hosted by Noel Edmonds. His guests include Willie Carson, who joins Chas 'n' Dave in a song, and Roy Castle (s) (805753)



The art of illusion: Debbie McGee, Paul Daniels (7.25pm)

7.25 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. A new series begins with guests Nyoka, an acrobat from Mexico, Philippe Socrate, a French comedy magician, and Canadian Denis Lacombe with a manic conductor act. Plus visits from Carmen Silvera, John Inman, Jim Bowen, Ruth Madoc and Norman Collier. (Ceefax) (s) (127096)

8.15 Casualty. Fast-moving medical drama series set in a city hospital. Among the patients this week are a little girl suffering the consequences of her parents' bitter divorce and a groom who was injured by his best man. (Ceefax) (s) (213444)

9.05 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Sport and weather (134647)

9.25 Film: We're No Angels (1989) starring Robert De Niro, Sean Penn and Demi Moore. Underrated comedy thriller about two petty criminals who are forced to join a prison break-out, make their way to a small border town are they are mistaken for priests. Written by David Mamet and directed by Ireland's Neil Jordan. (Ceefax) (s) (72524376)

11.05 Match of the Day: the Road to Wembley. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights from two of this afternoon's FA Cup third round matches. The commentators are Barry Davies and Tony Gubba (929685)

12.15am World Darts. First round action in the Embassy World Professional championship from the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green, Surrey (s) (1577241)

1.10 Weather (2398357)

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BBC2

8.00 Open University

9.05 Film: Nell Gwyn (1934, b/w) starring Anna Neagle and Sir Cedric Hardwicke. Romanticised costume biopic of the London orange-seller who became a Drury Lane star and the favourite mistress of Charles II. Directed by Herbert Wilcox (1087531)

10.15 It's That Meal Again. Michael Barry conducts a six week experiment in which two Southampton families try to restrict themselves to the rations allowed in 1942 (r) (512735)

10.45 The Hermit of the Kitchen. Zen Buddhism cuisine created by the Abbess Myodoni Murase of the Moon Heart Temple (r) (962276)

11.15 The Strange Affair. A series of five enquiries into the facts behind mysteries starts with Mary Godwin's creation Frankenstein. Who was the inspiration for this 170-year-old story? (r) (112799)

11.45 Shak the Red Fox. A wildlife documentary following the first few weeks in the life of one of several cubs born to an ageing and partially blind vixen on the Somerset Wetlands (r) (791440)

12.15 Film: Hue and Cry (1947, b/w) starring Alistair Sim and Harry Fowler. Delightful Ealing comedy in which a gang of London youths turn the tables on crooks using their favourite comedian to pass coded messages. directed by Charles Crichton (5610463)

1.30 Joseph and Child. A documentary about Arthur Dooly's sculpture Joseph and Child (r) (53322024)

1.50 Network East. Amitabh Bachchan and Sri Devi perform at the Juma Chumma concert at Wembley Stadium (65807228)

2.20 Tanhaiyan. Episode ten of the 13-part Asian drama (1467024)

3.00 Film: Brothers in Law (1957, b/w) starring Ian Carmichael and Richard Attenborough. Innocuous Boulting brothers comedy about a newly-qualified barrister (24686). Wales: Film: Bugles in the Afternoon 4.20 Film: War of the World 5.45-6.15 Wales on Saturday

4.30 Film: Midnight Lace (1960, b/w) starring Doris Day and Rex Harrison. Psychological thriller about the American wife of a wealthy London financier who starts to receive frightening telephone calls. Directed by David Miller (54564395)

6.15 World Darts. The Embassy world championship (s) (828668)

7.10 The Natural World. A preview of a new series (157024)

7.15 News with Jennie Bond. Sport and weather (781005)

7.30 Byzantium. Sir Michael Tippett, 88 today, introduces his most recent orchestral work, a setting of W.B. Yeats's poem *Byzantium*, in which Faye Robinson (soprano) and the BBC Symphony Orchestra are conducted by Andrew Davis (s) (454579)

8.15 Sickert's London.

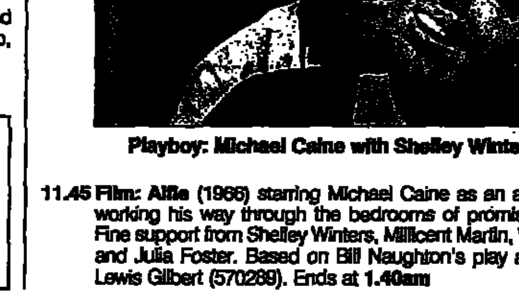
● CHOICE: A film to accompany the Sickert exhibition at the Royal Academy seeks to recover the reputation of an artist who has fallen into obscurity in the half century since his death. It is a thematic rather than a chronological study and says more about the artist than the man. A paradox of Sickert is that despite a flair for publicity he remained as shadowy and enigmatic as his self-portraits. On the personal level the programme fails to enlighten. It is stronger on the paintings, stressing the further paradox that Sickert both set out to catch the transitory and worked his subjects over in painstaking detail. His early nudes shocked and his later portraits were denounced because he based them on photographs. In between he gave painting lessons to Winston Churchill. He deserves to be resurrected (244314)

9.05 The Vampyr — A Soap Opera. Last part of the updated version of Heinrich Marschner's romantic opera. (Ceefax) (s) (852531)

9.35 Masters of the Universe: The Men Who Rebuilt the City. Bill Eagles talks to the men who reconstructed the City in response to the threat posed by Canary Wharf (s) (463208)

10.35 Steptoe and Son. Classic comedy starring Wilfrid Brambell and Harry H. Corbett as father and son rag and bone men (r) (964937)

11.05 London Labyrinth (colour and b/w). Director Chris Petit's personal journey through miles of archive film of London (798227)



Playboy: Michael Caine with Shelley Winters (11.45pm)

11.45 Film: Alfie (1966) starring Michael Caine as an amoral Cockney working his way through the bedrooms of promiscuous women. Fine support from Shelley Winters, Millicent Martin, Vivien Merchant and Julia Foster. Based on Bill Naughton's play and directed by Lewis Gilbert (570289). Ends at **1.40am**

ITV LONDON

6.00am GMTV (7910395) Includes **6.00** News; followed by **Rise and Shine**, featuring *Ric, Rosie and Jim, Bush School* and *Muppet Babies* **7.20 Saturday Disney 8.50 Teen Win Lose or Draw**

9.25 What's Up Doc? Terry Nutkins makes a return along with some Canadian timber wolves (s) (44979109)

11.10 Ratbag Hero. Conclusion to the Australian drama about a boy's journey to manhood (62508289)

1.00pm Movies, Movies, Movies. Review of 1992 (59734)

1.30 ITN News and weather (31622802) **1.35 LWT News** and weather (31621173)

1.40 The ITV Chart Show. Featuring Sister Sledge from the Video Vault (s) (2887598)

2.40 Film: Never a Dull Moment (1967). Easy-going crime comedy from Disney about a failed actor unwittingly involved in a plot to steal a priceless painting. Stars Dick Van Dyke and Edward G. Robinson. Directed by Jerry Paris (42446647) **4.25 Disney Cartoon Time** (5614043)

4.40 ITN News including sports results and weather (3437024)

5.00 LWT News and weather (7940598)

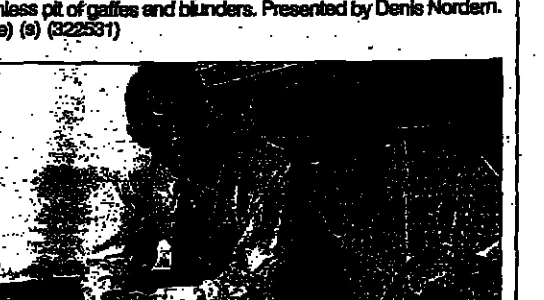
5.15 Disney Cartoon Time (6675734)

5.30 Stars in Their Eyes — Elvis Special.

● CHOICE: More applicants to the singing lookalike show want to be Elvis Presley than anyone else. Tonight's entertainment features 11 of them, though despite staunch work from the make-up and costume departments few would be mistaken for the real thing. The same can be said for the voices. It seems that while many try to imitate him, Elvis really is inimitable. But the point of the show is not to find the perfect clone so much as to give ordinary folk the chance to enjoy a bit of vicarious stardom. This falls tonight to a burglar alarm salesman from Basingstoke and a bingo caller from Tooting and nine other Elvis worshippers delighted to belt out their hero's hits. In the absence of the incapacitated Leslie Crowther, our host is Russ Abbot. His vocabulary of approval extends from "great" to "terrific" and "tremendous". (Oracle) (77550)

6.30 Baywatch the Movie: River of No Return. A host of golden suntans in this feature-length episode of the Malibu lifeguard drama series. (Oracle) (75682531)

8.05 It'll Be Alright on the Night 7. Yet more from television's bottomless pit of gaffes and blunders. Presented by Denis Nordern. (Oracle) (s) (322531)



Whodunit? Roy Marsden solves a classic murder (9.05pm)

9.05 Unnatural Causes.

● CHOICE: The television screen will soon be bereft of some of its favourite sleuths. Miss Marple solved her last case on Sunday, Inspectors Morse and Wexford are nearing retirement and now comes the swansong of P.D. James's lean and laconic Adam Dalgliesh, admirably interpreted by Roy Marsden. *Unnatural Causes* is set among a literary circle in Suffolk and the ingredients are straight from the classic whodunit: a murder made to look like a natural death, a dispute over the victim's will and a conveniently circumscribed list of suspects. But if the formula is pure Agatha Christie, it is lifted by attention to characterisation and background. As with previous James adaptations, this one is strongly cast and makes effective use of natural locations. Be warned that the plotting is intricate. (Oracle) (13709869)

11.05 ITN News and weather (127685)

11.25 Film: Under Fire (1983) Tense political action thriller with Nick Nolte, Gene Hackman and Joanna Cassidy as fearless war correspondents in 1979 Nicaragua. Directed by Roger Spottiswoode (s) (69312573)

1.45am Film: The Suicide Murders (1985) starring Saul Rubinek and Kate Rotter in a plodding private eye mystery (846224)

3.40 Film: Out of the Darkness (1985) True story about the motivation of the policeman who tracked down New York's notorious multiple killer, "Son of Sam". Martin Sheen puts in a believable central performance as the investigator with a tragic personal history. Directed by Jud Taylor (618932)

5.20 Get Stuffed Christmas Special Festive food (2189319)

5.45 Disney Cartoon Time (5685690) **5.55 ITN News** (3469999)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Early Morning starts with **The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz** (r) (s) (1203376) **6.25 Spiff and Hercules** (6681024) **6.35 Alfred J. Kwak** (6046444) **7.00 Kideo** (s) (58005) **7.30 Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors** (r) (60840) **8.00 Trans World Sport** (38463) **9.00 News Summary** (4768821) **9.15 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line** (2077192)

10.00 Tony Jacklin's Pro-Celebrity Golf. For the final of the Whyte & Mackay Scotch Trophy, Hale Irwin is partnered by *EastEnder* Mike Reid and Sam Torrance is paired up with rugby union's Jeremy Guscott (66024)

11.00 The Lone Ranger: The Frightened Woman (b/w). The masked avenger tackles the case of a widow who has been intimidated by a bandit (7043)

11.30 World Angling Championships. The world's best anglers gather in Northern Ireland for the heated annual competition (24531)

12.30 American Football. Last week's highlights and a preview of games to come (r) (62647)

1.00pm Sign On: Newswatch Special. A review of 1992 and a look forward to the coming year with the emphasis on items of interest to deaf people. With signing and on-screen subtitles (50602)

2.00 Film: Love Me or Leave Me (1955). Doris Day and James Cagney team up for this hard-edged biopic, based on the true story of the singer Ruth Etting and her destructive relationship with petty gangster Martin Snyder. Among several memorable numbers are "I'll Never Stop Loving You" and "Ten Cents a Dance". Directed by Charles Vidor (46992376)

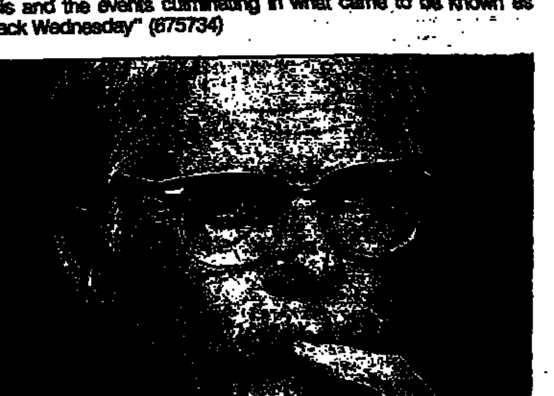
4.15 Animating Art. Documentary on animation techniques (r) (8261314)

5.05 Brookside. Omnibus edition of the Merseyside soap (r). (Teletext) (s) (4653208)

6.30 A Sense of History. Jim Broadbent gives a clever portrait of the sinister 23rd Earl of Leete prowling round his memory-filled country estate in Mike Leigh's amusing spoof documentary (r) (Teletext) (s) (69)

7.00 News summary and weather (153208)

7.05 A Week in Politics Special. A look back at the summer's sterling crisis and the events culminating in what came to be known as "Black Wednesday" (675734)



Injured in a chemical explosion: Keith Szarabajka (8.00pm)

8.00 Stephen King's Golden Years.

● CHOICE: The first work for television by the horror specialist Stephen King takes its title from David Bowie: "Run for the shadows in these golden years". The years are not too golden for Harlan (Keith Szarabajka), a 70-year-old janitor at a secret government research establishment. His eyesight is failing and he may lose his job. But there is worse. A laboratory explosion injures Harlan and kills two scientists. There is a huge cover-up but neither Harlan nor his plucky wife is prepared to let matters rest. With five episodes to go the pace is leisurely, the narrative thick with enigmas. What was the head of the laboratory really working on? And why did he ignore the red warning light? Part thriller, part science fiction, *The Golden Years* is off to a promising start. (Teletext) (s) (51974260)

9.50 Drop the Dead Donkey. With a new series coming up shortly, the topical newsroom comedy repeats the episode which recently won the International Emmy Award (s) (661192)

10.25 Tectonic Plates. Film adaptation of Robert Lepage's stage play exploring the inspirations behind the work of French-Canadian painter Madeleine (Marie Cignac) (s) (161260)

12.25am American Football (r) (1163715)

1.35 Film: Godzilla vs Megalon (1973) The outsize lizard with a sentimental streak takes on an equally monstrous foe in this dubbed extravaganza. Watch out for Jet Jaguar, a sensational cyborg which can fly and change its size at will. Starring Katsuhiko Sasaki directed by Jun Fukuda (1698680). Ends at **3.05**

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am Danger Bay (19294) **6.30** Elephant Boy (85685) **7.00** Fun Factory (7998647) **12.00** Billboard Music Awards 1992 (56173) **2.00pm** Greenacres (8734) **2.30** Facts of Life (5734) **3.00** Cartoons (69442) **4.00** The Dukes of Hazzard (24937) **5.00** WWF Superstars of Wrestling (9821) **6.00** Knights and Warriors (29956) **7.00** UK Top 40 (59111) **8.00** Unsolved Mysteries (35531) **9.00** Cops I (13821) **9.30** Cops II (91173) **10.00** All American Wrestling (58482) **11.00** Saturday Night Live (16043) **12.00** Skytext

SKY NEWS

Twenty-four hour news service

SKY MOVIES+

6.00am Showcase (36686)

8.00 Gunfight in Abilene (1967): Western starring Bobby Darin (11615227)

9.35 Tail Gunner Joe (1977): Biopic of Senator Joe McCarthy (89924463)

12.00 Vanishing Wilderness: Animal documentary (81869)

2.00pm American Eyes (1989): A family adopts a Korean teenager (82734)

3.00 Tales from the Dark Side: *Pain Killer* (5127); **3.30** *A Case of the Stubborns* (2847)

4.00 Original Intent (1990): Jay Richardson fights to stop a businessman from shutting down a homeless shelter (4753)

6.00 The Detective Kid (1989): Jay Underwood turns sleuth to save his mother from eviction (69598)

8.00 Pretty Woman (1990): Romantic comedy starring Richard Gere and Julia Roberts (64043)

10.00 The Silence of the Lambs (1991): Jodie Foster tracks a killer with the help of Anthony Hopkins's Hannibal Lecter (39669)

12.00 Young Lady Chatterley (1976): Adult entertainment (675898)

1.50am Lean on Me (1989): Morgan Freeman stars in the true story of a teacher at a rough New York school (23373970)

4.00 High School (1988): Comedy about a student film (533208). Ends at **5.40**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm You Can't Have Everything (1937, b/w): Musical comedy (94701666)

5.45 Solomon and Sheba (1959): Biblical epic starring Yul Brynner and Gina Lollobrigida (69229395)

8.10 Foxes (1980): Drama about four California girls (85804314)

10.00 Bloody Mama (1970): Shelley Winters stars as bank robber Ma Baker (69598). Ends at **11.30**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.35am Under Two Flags (1936, b/w): Ronald Colman as a Foreign Legionnaire caught between two women (69387734)

8.15 A Perilous Journey (1946, b/w): California gold rush adventure (60027734)

10.00 Columbo: Caution, Murder Can Be a Hazardous Affair (1991): Peter Falk as the dishevelled sleuth (16252024)

11.35 Berlin Tunnel 21 (1981): American soldiers tunnel beneath the Berlin Wall to rescue a German girl (66255208)

2.00pm Waiting for the Light (1990): Shirley MacLaine as a psychic (212258)

3.40 The Call of the Wild: Cartoon version of Jack London's novel (6060937)

4.50 The Canterville Ghost: Animation in which a British ghost is disturbed by an American family (2037937)

6.00 Xposure: Film news (9173)

6.30 Which Way Home (1991): Cybill Shepherd attempts to smuggle orphans out of Cambodia (210111)

9.00 Scenes from a Mall (1990): Woody Allen and Bette Midler confess their marital infidelities (81956)

11.00 After Dark, My Sweet (1991): Jason Patric is drawn into a deadly plot (504111)

12.55am Enemies, a Love Story (1989): Ron Silver's wife, Anjelica Huston, returns from the dead (349777)

2.55 Betty Blue (1986): Drama about two French lovers (80375864)

5.00 Testament (1983): Post-nuclear survival drama (62067). Ends at **6.30**

SKY SPORTS

6.30am Fishing the West (25227) **7.00** The Big League (221591) **9.30** Gillette World Sports Special (90043) **10.00** The Boot Room — New Year Special (55956) **11.00** Sky Soccer Weekend (35192) **12.00** WWF Wrestling Challenge (80668) **1.00pm** Sports Saturday (6389956) **6.00** FA Cup Third Round Highlights (85550) **8.00** WWF Primetime Wrestling (87145) **9.30** Ringside Theatre (32598) **10.30** European League Round-Up (75668) **11.30** Ringside Remembers (214802) **2.00-3.00am** Surfing (37654)

EUROSPORT

8.00am Step Aerobics (42918) **8.30** Havoc (41289) **9.00** Motorsport (65717) **10.30** Boxing (46289) **12.00** Ski Jumping (75734) **1.00pm** Free Climbing (84482) **2.00** Synchronised Swimming (69098) **3.00** Figure Skating (72598) **4.00** Sailing (51005) **5.00** Euroscores (5465376) **5.05** Volleyball (83109579) **7.00** Formula One (52889) **9.00** Boxing (91111) **10.00** Euroscores (26258) **11.00-12.00** Snooker (41753)

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Sailing (26666) **8.00** Solheim Cup (27395) **9.00** Basketball (32666) **10.00** Pro Muay Thai (53598) **11.00** Sports Magazine (73227) **11.30** Off Road Racing (74956) **12.00** NBA Action (59579) **12.30pm** Sailing (69173) **1.00** NFL in Review (97550) **1.30** Pro Box Special (80314) **3.30** 1992 Pro Superbike (1591) **4.00** Surfing (9956) **4.30** Men's Pro Beach Volleyball (53444) **5.30** Pro Box (62666) **6.30** Indy Cart Review 1992 (14192) **8.30** Paris-Dakar Rally '93 (5647) **9.00** Pro Box (94208) **11.00** Paris-Dakar Rally '93 (65208) **11.30** PGA European Golf Review (37111) **1.30am** NBA Action (26357) **2.00** Bowling (37666) **3.00** Fuji Tennis (45660) **5.00-6.00** Thai Kick Box (57864)

LIFESTYLE

12.00 Rambo (43647) **12.30pm** Spiral Zone (94869) **1.00** White Shadow (8708289) **1.55** The Dream Chasers (42661918) **2.25** The Green Hornet (35774604) **2.50** Spain Spain Holiday (8170463) **3.05** The Adventures of Jim Bowie (9487043) **3.30** Johnny Ringo (2289) **4.00** Make Room for Daddy (4024) **4.30** Gameshows (92550) **6.00** Sell-a-Vision (6967395) **10.00** Jukebox Music Videos (1889227) **2.30-3.00am** Top Five (98135)

UK GOLD

6.00am Rainbow (57373956) **6.15** Chorlton in the Ice World (57361111) **6.30** Dangermouse (9452869) **7.00** Lassie (2818647) **7.30** Owl TV (2827482) **8.00** Chocky's Challenge (5470598) **8.30** Rentaghost (5479869) **9.00** Visionaries (5453821) **9.30** Rude Dog and the Dweebs (7131208) **10.00** Jem (9436821) **10.30** Dungeons and Dragons (5459005) **11.00** Film: Gulliver's Travels (39848802) **12.15pm** Film: The Quiet Man (1952) starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara (10858598) **2.45** EastEnders (40398550) **5.30** Five Children and It (7248647) **6.00** Bergerac (7143043) **7.00** Bless This House (1460208) **7.30** Till Death Do Us Part (7258024) **8.00** Miss Marple (1242666) **10.00** Film: Wise Guys (1986) starring Danny DeVito and Joe Piscopo (2842685) **11.45** The Young Ones (3740043) **12.15am** Three of a Kind (3000154) **12.45-2.00** In Concert: Queen in Rio (39335135)

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 5.00-5.15 Anglia News (7940598) **5.20am-5.55** America's Top Ten (6324241)

BORDER

As London except: 1.00-1.30 Granada Sport: Kick Off (59734) **2.40-4.40** Granada Sport: Action (69310531) **5.00-5.15** Border News (7940598) **5.20am-5.55** America's Top Ten (6324241)

CENTRAL

As London except: 5.00 Central News (7935519) **5.05-5.30** Cartoon Time (8318918) **5.20am** CinemAttractions (2189319) **5.45-5.55** Cartoon Time (5685690)

GRAMPIAN

As London except: 5.05-5.15 Winter on Grampian (6695598) **5.20am-5.55** America's Top Ten (6324241)

GRANADA

As London except: 1.00-1.30 Granada Sport: Kick Off (59734) **2.40-4.40** Granada Sport: Action including wrestling, football and rugby union (69310531) **5.00-5.15** Granada News followed by Granada Sport: Goals Extra (7940598) **5.20am-5.55** America's Top Ten (6324241)

HTV WEST

As London except: 5.00-5.15 HTV West News and Sport (7940598) **5.20am-5.55** America's Top Ten presented by Casey Kasem (6324241)

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 5.00-5.15 HTV Wales News and Sport (7940598)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 1.35pm-1.40 Meridian News (31621173) **5.00** Meridian News (7935519) **5.05-5.15** The Making of *Full Stretch*, the new television comedy drama series (6695598)

SCOTTISH

As London except: 1.40 Pop Profile (62109208) **1.55-4.40** Film: The Great Race (Jack Lemon, Tony Curtis, Natalie Wood). Comedy about the skullduggery associated with the 1908 New York to Paris car race (81331395) **5.00** Scotsport Results (6696227) **5.10-5.15** Scotland Today (6935799) **3.40am** America's Top Ten presented by Casey Kasem (49612863) **4.00** Back Track '92 (3248864) **5.05** ITV Chart Show (9178951) **5.50-5.55** Cartoons (3460628)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 5.00-5.15 Tyne Tees Saturday (7940598)

ULSTER

As London except: 5.00 Ulster News (6696227) **5.10-5.15** Goal of the Week (6935799) **5.20am-5.55** America's Top Ten (2189319)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 1.35-1.40 Westcountry Weekend Latest (31621173) **5.00-5.15** Westcountry Weekend Latest (7940598) **5.20am** America's Top Ten (63287574) **5.50-5.55** Cartoon Time (3460628)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 5.00-5.15 Calender News (7940598)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 Kideo (58005) **7.30** Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors (60840) **8.00** Trans World Sport (38463) **9.00** News (4768821) **9.15** Racing: The Morning Line (2077192) **10.00** Tales of the Night (27647) **10.30** Daily Telegraph Junior Golfer of the Year 1992 (38631) **11.30** World Angling Championships from the Fermanagh Lakelands (24531) **12.30** American Football: Play Action (62647) **1.00** Sign On (50602) **2.00** Film: Love Me or Leave Me (Doris Day, James Cagney) (46992376) **4.15** Animating Art (8261314) **5.05** Brookside (4653208) **6.30** Belwn Dros Everest (69) **7.00** News (788918) **7.15** Bacha Hi O'Ma (727050) **8.00** Halen Yn Y Gwaed (6821) **9.00** Tocyn Tymor (191444) **9.55** Bob A Dic Yn Ewrop (150753) **11.55** Nightingales (613192) **12.25** American Football (1163715) **1.35** Close

RTE 1

Starts: 11.40 The Pyramids of Peru (6243043) **12.30** The Campbells (63432005) **1.05** Flamberds (6254550) **2.00** News (41750289) **2.05** Little House on the Prairie (3820918) **2.55** Daylight Robbery (2304258) **3.55** Film: Mr Hobbs Takes a Vacation (69250463) **6.00** The Angelus (6961395) **6.01** News (1717734) **6.15** Ros Na Run (1712289) **6.30** Made By Man (3159550) **6.45** Play the Game (5445227) **7.15** The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (6368314) **8.05** The Voice of Sandy Kelly, the Songs of Patsy Cline (3242937) **9.00** News (2601227) **9.20** Golden Fiddles (86042773) **11.15** Film: Intrigue (1174173) **1.00** News (2575203) **1.05** Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 9.15 Film: Vincent and Me (34487432) **11.05** Storybook International (90518463) **11.25** Film: The Christmas Tree (42816460) **12.30** News (53553289) **12.34** Sports Stadium (29536173) **5.15** Beyond 2000 (24370173) **6.00** The Moon Stallion (92057956) **6.30** Seachtain (49527753) **6.55** News (60106024) **7.00** Wetthelt Macht Frei (46148463) **9.00** News (63701173) **9.05** Lotto Draw (63701173) **9.08** Film: Duel in the Sun (27887314) **10.30** Fanning's Top 40 of 1992 (51003376) **12.15** Close

RADIO 3

6.35am Open University: Countdown to Graphs

6.55 Weather

7.00 Record Review, introduced by Paul Guinery. Vivaldi (Concerto da camera in F, RV97: Il Giardino Armonico); Arnold (Serenade for small orchestra: London Music under Mark Stephenson); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in G, Op 30 No 3: Johannes Leertouwer, violin, Julian Reynolds, piano); Mendelssohn (Symphony No 5 in D, Reformation: Philharmonia Orchestra under Walter Weller); Rebecca Clarke (Three Old English Songs: Patricia Wright, soprano, Jonathan Rees, violin); Mussorgsky (Pictures from an Exhibition: Olli Mustonen, piano)

9.00 News

9.05 Record Review (cont): Richard Osborne presents **Building a Library:** Bernard Keeffe reviews the dance music of the Strauss family; Iain Fenlon on a new recording of Monteverdi's Il ritorno d'Ulisse; and Anthony Burton discusses new releases from the American label, Music Masters, including music by Stravinsky, Copland, Antheil and Lou Harrison. **10.35 Record Release:** Monteverdi (Il ritorno d'Ulisse, Act 4, sc 3: Concerto Vocale under René Jacobs, with Bernarda Fink, mezzo, Dominique Visse, alto, Mark Tucker, tenor, Christoph Prégardien, tenor, David Thomas, bass); Stravinsky (Symphonies of wind instruments: Orchestra of St Luke's under Robert Craft); Lou Harrison (Cornish Lancaran: Musicians of the Gamelan Si Betty, with William Trimble, saxophone); Antheil (A Jazz Symphony: New Palais Royale Orchestra under Maurice Peress, with Ivan Davis, piano); **11.25** Anthony Peattie looks at opera on LaserDisc; Mozart (Die Zauberflöte, Act 1 Finale: Metropolitan Opera Chorus and Orchestra under James Levine, with Kathleen Battle, soprano, Francisco Araiza, tenor, Manfred Hemm, baritone)

1.00pm News

1.05 Mozart's Violin Sonatas: Gyorgy Pauk, violin, Peter Frankl, piano, perform Sonata in F, K547; Sonata in E flat, K380; Sonata in E minor, K304; Sonata in A, K526. Including at **1.50** Interval Reading (r)

2.40 Duets in Trecento: Gothic Voices sing virtuoso duets from 14th-century Italy

3.00 Solti: The Chicago Years. In the fifth of seven programmes, Natalie Wheen examines the conductor Sir Georg Solti's career with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Including interviews with Solti, Peter Jonas, the American broadcaster Norman Pellegrini, and Henry Fogel, executive director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. With extracts from Weber (Overture, Oberon); Berlioz (Symphonie fantastique); Schönberg (Variations for Orchestra); Mussorgsky (Pictures from an Exhibition); Del Tredici (Final Alice); Bartók (Divertimento); and a complete performance of Tippett (Symphony No 4)

5.00 Jazz Record Requests, with Geoffrey Smith

5.45 Opera News, presented by James Naughtie

6.30 Die Walküre

● CHOICE: Placido Domingo, making his *Ring* cycle debut as Siegmund, lends a particular excitement to tonight's recording of the Vienna State Opera production, which Christoph von Dohnányi conducts. Domingo is part of a formidable cast that includes Waltraud Meier as Sieglinde, Hildegard Behrens as Brunnhilde, Kurt Rydl as Hunding and Robert Hale as Wotan. The New York Metropolitan production of the entire *Ring* can be heard live on Radio 3 starting on April 3. Tonight's interval reading is at **7.50**, with Act 2 at **8.00** and Act 3 at **9.30**

10.45 Outside-In Festival: Nod Knowles introduces the first of three programmes of music recorded at the 1992 festival in the Hawth Theatre, Crawley. The 22-piece Dedication Orchestra pays tribute to the influential South African jazz group the Blue Notes, all of whose members are now dead except Louis Moholo who plays in tonight's concert

12.30-12.35am News

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** The Farming Week: Carol Trewin investigates the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust **6.50** Prayer for the Day **6.55**, **7.55** Weather **7.00** Today, incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.20** Listeners' Letters **7.25**, **8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.58** Weather **9.00 News**

9.05 Sport on 4, with Cliff Morgan

9.30 Breakaway: Bill Oddie with holiday and travel news

10.00 News; Loose Ends: Conversation with Ned Sherrin and guests (s)

11.00 News; Talking Politics: Under the Hammer. David Walter examines privatisation

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 Money Box: Alison Mitchell explores the single European market

12.25pm Just a Minute! Clement Freud, Wendy Richard, Paul Merton and Tony Slattery try to talk for a minute without hesitation, repetition or deviation. Chairman Nicholas Parsons (s) **12.55** Weather

1.00 News

1.10 Call to Account: Anna Ford chairs a debate in which listeners call Radio 4's management to account for their programmes and policy. With Michael Green, controller of Radio 4; Jenny Abramsky, editor of radio news and current affairs; and Ray Snoddy, media editor of *The Financial Times* **1.55** Shipping

2.00 News; Little Blighty on the Down Christmas Special (r)

2.30 Saturday Playhouse: The Five Beans. John Peacock's reworking of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. With Matthew Morgan (s)

4.00 News; New Europeans: Paul Tripp takes listeners on a guided tour of Istanbul (s)

4.30 Science Now, presented by Peter Evans

5.00 A Year in Harness

● CHOICE: Paul Heiney's novicate year as a farmer has reached October. Soon, he will be able to lean on a gate, chew a straw ruminatively, and say "Arhh!" with any genuine, horny-handed son of toil. What does October mean down on the Heiney farm? Mainly, it means preparing for the harvest supper, taking the corn to the local miller, who grinds it into the flour that becomes the bread that accompanies the ham that the farm helpers consume while singing that snorting song about Suzanne the funnical man

5.25 The Art of Travel: Peter Matthiessen reflects on his search for the snow leopard in the Himalayas (1/6) (s) **5.50** Shipping **5.55** Weather

6.00 News and Sports Round-Up

6.25 Year Pending (s) (r)

6.50 Postcard from Gotham: From New York, Mark Steyn and guests give an insiders' view of the United States

7.20 Kaleidoscope: Porteno People. In the first of two programmes, Lucy Duran describes the identity and culture of Buenos Aires (s)

7.50 Saturday Night Theatre: The Night of Wenceslas. In Frederick Bradnum's dramatisation of Lionel Davidson's Golden Dagger award-winning thriller of 1960, Nicolas Whistler (Rupert Graves) becomes involved in a dangerous spying mission to Prague (s)

9.25 Music in Mind, presented by Brian Kay (s)

9.50 Ten to Ten (s) **9.59** Weather

10.00 News

10.15 The Year in Question: *The Scotsman* v *The Belfast Telegraph* (r) (s)

10.45 Worlds Apart: Andrew Lucas-d'Souza talks to Ray Brown about his childhood memories of Burma

11.00 Out of Order Christmas Special (r) (s)

11.30 Sex in the Head: Men and women discuss their fantasy sex lives, while experts try to explain why we fantasise (s)

12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Classic FM: FM-100-102.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Neale James (FM only until **6.00am**) **7.00** Bruno Brookes **10.00** Dave Lee Travis **1.00pm** Adrian Juste **2.00** Simple Minds — The Street Fighting Years: 1977-82 **3.00** Johnnie Walker **6.00** The Saturday Rock Show **8.30** Songlines **9.00** Andy Kershaw **11.00** John Peel (FM only from **12.00**) **2.00-4.00am** Lynn Parsons (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Bill Rennells **6.00** Barbara Sturgeon **8.05** Brian Matthew: Sounds of the Sixties **10.00** Sarah Kennedy **12.00** Nick Barraclough's New Country **1.30pm** Comedy Hour: I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again (r), and at **1.30** Pull the Other One (r) **2.00** Ronnie Hilton: Sounds of the Fifties **3.00** Steve Race **4.00** Fan*******tastic! Bob Sinfield on fan worship **5.00** Movie Hour: Cinema 2, and at **5.30** Singers at the Movies: Elvis Presley (r) **6.00** Janis Ian in Concert **7.00** Behind the Hits **7.30** A Man and His Music: A tribute to the late Robert Docker **9.30** David Jacobs presents Easy Does It **10.00** Radio 2 Arts Programme **12.05am** Ronnie Hilton (r) **1.00-4.00am** John Terrett

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until Midday. **6.00am** World Service **6.30** Mark Curry's Weekend Edition **9.30** Get Set... **10.30** Tales of the Texas Rangers **11.00** Go! **12.00** Sport on 4 Plus 1 (as Radio 4 at 9.05am) **12.30pm** Sportscall **1.30** Sport on Five. Football: FA Cup third round; Rugby League: Regal Trophy semi-final; Racing from Newbury: **2.15** Mandarin Handicap Steeple Chase **5.00** Sports Report **6.05** Six-O-Six **7.30** Afropop Worldwide **8.30** Le Top **9.30** Nightbeat: The Girl in the Park **10.00** Sports Bulletin **10.15** On the Level **12.00-12.10am** News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **4.30am** Writers in a Nutshell **4.40** Travel and Weather **4.44** Weather **4.45** Programmes in German **5.30** Europe's People **5.59** Weather **6.00** News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Programmes in French **6.59** Weather **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** People and Politics **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** A Jolly Good Show **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Short Story: The Fir Tree **9.30** Personal View **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** News **10.01** Jazz Now and Then **10.15** Letter from America **10.30** Waveguide **10.40** Book Choice **10.45** From the Weeklies **11.00** Newsdesk **11.29** Travel News **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **Midday** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Multitrack 3 **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** Letterbox **2.15** Personal View **2.30** Sportsworld **3.00** World News **3.15** Sportsworld **4.00** News **4.10** News About Britain **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Programmes in German **5.00** News; Sportsworld **5.30** Programmes in French **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Programmes in German **8.00** News **8.10** Personal View **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Europe This Weekend **8.55** European Sports News **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.15** Meridian **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Words of Faith **11.10** Book Choice **11.15** A Jolly Good Show **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** The Ken Bruce Show **1.00** News **1.01** Play of the Week: As You Like It **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Europe at the Time **3.00** News **3.10** News About Britain **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** From Our Own Correspondent **3.50** Write On **4.00** News **4.15** Under Threat

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Jane Jones **9.00** Classic CD Chart Rundown **12.00** Petroc Trelawny **3.00pm** Adrian Love **6.00** Classic America **7.00** Classic FM Opera: Bayreuth Festival Orchestra and Chorus under Giuseppe Sinopoli perform Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* **10.00** Alan Mann **1.00-6.00am** Robert Booth

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SUNDAY TELEVISION AND RADIO

BBC1

7.25 The High Chaparral. Vintage western adventures. In this episode the Cannon family are threatened by Apaches (r) (2889048)



Sunday begins with a prime interview: David Frost (8.15am)

8.15 Breakfast with Frost. In the first of a new series David Frost interviews the prime minister, John Major. Includes **News** and weather at **8.15** and **9.00** (368135)

9.15 The Good Book Guide. Tony Robinson with a new series examining the Bible (4024154)

9.30 This is the Day. With Church of Scotland project worker May Nicholson at the Mid-Craigie estate in Dundee, a place with a reputation for drugs and violence (85628)

10.00 See Hear! The first of two programmes looking at how deaf and hearing people communicate in sign language (s) (27067) **10.30 Help Your Child With Reading** presented by Maggie Philbin (r) (8633135). Wales: (to 12.50) Film: Half a Sixpence **10.45 Italianissimo.** Anna Mazzotti visits the conical houses of Alberobello (8621390)

11.00 Careering Ahead. What are job prospects like in the area around Holy Loch now that the US Navy has closed its base? (4390) **11.30 Channel Hopping.** Job prospects on the Continent (r) (2319)

12.00 Advice Shop. Welfare rights magazine (r) (38222) **12.30 CountryFile.** John Craven reports from the *Hudson River* in the United States where chemical pollution is putting generations of fishing at risk (1857628) **12.55 Weather** (24553425). Wales: See You Sunday

1.00 News (34645574) followed by **Spitfire!** The story of the fighterplane told by former pilot Raymond Baxter. Includes film of Sir Douglas Bader recalling his aerial battles (r) (1797319)

2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (r). (Ceefax) (28796)

3.00 Match of the Day Live: The Road to Wembley. Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage of the FA Cup third round match between Nottingham Forest and Southampton at the City Ground. The commentator is John Motson with analysis by Jimmy Hill and Terry Venables (20816)

5.00 The Clothes Show. Includes Jeff Banks reporting on whether there is a British fashion industry left (s) (8382951)

5.25 Antiques Roadshow. Hugh Scully and his team of experts begin a new series at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu. (Ceefax) (s) (6139048)

6.10 News with Chris Lowe. Weather (878574)

6.25 Songs of Praise. Top Ten Hymns from Chester Cathedral introduced by Debbie Thrower. (Ceefax) (s) (385425)

7.00 Last of the Summer Wine. A feature length episode of Roy Clarke's gently meandering comedy. Compo, Clegg and Foggy reluctantly agree to smuggle invalid Sam out of confinement for one last assignation with Lily-Bless-Her. But Sam spoils the plan. Starring Bill Owen, Peter Sallis, Brian Wilde and Lynda Baron (r). (Ceefax) (50203)

8.30 Film: Diagnosis Of Murder (1991) starring Dick van Dyke, Bill Bixby and Ken Kercheval. An offbeat television movie from the Perry Mason team in which amateur sleuth Dr Mark Sloan forsakes his medical duties to help a friend who has been framed for murder. Directed by Christopher Hibler. (Ceefax) (s) (69661)

10.00 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Weather (241932)

10.15 Everyman: Confessions of a Reluctant Saint. A profile of Jack Preger who runs a surgery in Calcutta for the destitute, the lepers and the homeless (r). (Ceefax) (947222). Wales: Belshazzar's Feast

10.55 What Shall We Tell the Children? A new series of advice for parents on talking to their children about sex (s) (321319). Wales 11.00 What Shall We Tell the Children

11.15 Famously Fluent. The first of a ten-part series in which personalities brush up their foreign languages, beginning with Gary Lineker on Spanish and Catalan. (Ceefax) (630203)

11.20 Doogie Howser MD. Irritating American comedy drama about a teenage medical prodigy (596135). Wales: Famously Fluent 11.25 Doogie Howser

11.45 Tanhaiyan. Episode ten of the 13-part Asian drama (r). English subtitles (125593)

12.25am Weather (1985723)

BBC2

7.30 Felix the Cat (s) (9242749) **7.45 Playdays** (r) (4254086) **8.10 Smoggies.** Animation (9839703) **8.35 Telling Tales: Soloman and the Poor Man.** The story of the rich man who kept changing the rules. (Ceefax) (s) (6587852) **8.50 Christopher Crocodile** (r) (2786135) **8.55 Superbods.** An exploration of the human body (r) (4587672) **9.15 Favourite Songs.** With the voices of Ed Asner and Roger Daltrey (r) (9107203) **9.40 The Wetter the Better!** Liquid game show (s) (8491845) **10.05 Thundercats** (r) (2710628) **10.30 The Best of Blue Peter** (s) (45512) **11.00 Pingu** (r) (8212241) **11.05 Chocolate.** Forty children enact a world cocoa crisis to demonstrate Third World politics (8719048) **11.45 The O-Zone.** Pop music magazine (s) (4201086)

12.00 Thunderbirds. Classic puppet adventures. (Ceefax) (3085680)

12.50 The Invaders. Vintage science fiction drama (8733883)

1.40 World Darts. This afternoon's featured game in the Embassy world professional championship is between last year's runner-up Mike Gregory of England and Scotland's Jamie Harvey (s) (53530636)

2.05 Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World. The first of a new series on the importance to western society of the values of traditional tribal people (5738203)

3.00 Film: The Wrong Arm of the Law (1963, b/w) starring Peter Sellers, Bernard Cribbins and Lionel Jeffries. Fast and funny comedy in which the London underworld offers Scotland Yard a truce in order to capture Australians trying to get in on the action. Directed by Cliff Owen (40704425)

4.35 Ski Sunday. Ski-jumping from Innsbruck, Austria (4208796)

5.10 Rugby Special. Highlights of Leicester v Barbarians (4105048). Wales: Pontypridd v Cardiff, Bridgend v Llanelli



Soft focus: the life cycle of a family of elephants (6.10pm)

6.10 The Natural World: Echo of the Elephants.
● CHOICE: The evergreen wildlife series returns with a charming and intimate film about elephants, shot in the Amboseli National Park in Kenya. Our guide is Cynthia Moss, an American who has spent some 20 years studying the elephants at close hand and knows all 750 of them individually. She has also given them names. The film records 18 months in the life of Echo, a 45-year-old matriarch, and her growing family. We open with the latest addition, a calf born with crippled legs. Moss calls him Eli. We also meet Grace and Astrid and a huge bull called Dionysus, who weighs in twice as heavy as Echo. As months of drought finally give way to rain, we reach the mating season. Patrick and Odette oblige for the cameras. As so the cycle of family life goes on, sympathetically observed with the usual high quality camerawork. (Ceefax) (s) (842393)

7.10 The Boy Who Would Be King.
● CHOICE: Nigel Short seems to have been a chess prodigy for so long that it comes as a surprise to discover that he is now a veteran of 27. He is on the brink of his most important match, against the Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman. If he wins he will meet the world champion, Garry Kasparov. This timely profile is presented by Tim Rice, whose CV includes the musical *Chess*. It reveals a man obsessed with the game to the exclusion of all else, though he did appear on *Blue Peter* leading a rock group called The Urge. The big surprise to the outsider is the intensity of the pre-match hype. Short says he enjoys crushing people and if he can humiliate them at the same time, so much the better. He calls Kasparov "thoroughly unpleasant". Kasparov replies in kind. And chess is supposed to be such a quiet, thoughtful game (s) (407406)

7.50 Metro-land. Sir John Betjeman's famous celebration of London suburbia (r) (553425)

8.40 Only Fools and Horses. An early episode from John Sullivan's long-running comedy series starring David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst (r). (Ceefax) (563970)

9.10 An Ungentlemanly Act. Ian Richardson, Rosemary Leach and Bob Peck star in Stuart Urban's tragicomedy set at the time of the Argentinian invasion of the Falkland Islands (r) (s) (13771086)

11.10 Later with Jools Holland. Music from k d lang, Dwight Yoakam, the Rockingbirds and Louden Wainwright III (r) (973932)

12.00 World Darts (s) (1057100). Ends at **1.05am**

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV. Includes **News** and weather at **6.30, 7.30** and **8.30.** At **7.20, Sunday Best,** presented by Eamonn Holmes and Anne Davies. The cover story is about the 36 Bosnian refugees adopted by Scottish villagers. The guests include a number of MPs, including Glenda Jackson, Sebastian Coe and Tony Blair, with their predictions for 1993, Linford Christie and Damon Hill

9.25 Disney Club. The show's annual pantomime (68876357)

11.00 Morning Worship from the Tabernacle Community Church, Aylsham, Norfolk (35574)

12.00 Encounter: One Man and his Volvo. The story of Tony Budell, a truck driver whose life changed dramatically when he heard a voice speaking to him on a Dover beach. (Oracle) (23390)

12.30 News and weather (74714929) **12.35 LWT Weather** (89669870)

12.40 The Smurfs. Animated adventures (r) (1831680)

1.05 Film: Saludos Amigos (1943). A classic Walt Disney cartoon in which Donald Duck tours South America (7085845)

1.50 Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (1988) starring Cynthia Gibb. A sympathetic biopic of the singer who died from anorexia nervosa. Directed by Joseph Sargent (32327244)

3.30 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game show (93)

4.00 Animal Country. The awards edition of the nature show (28)

4.30 Wish You Were Here..? presented by Judith Chalmers in Mauritius (r). (Oracle) (s) (12)

5.00 A Year in Spain.
● CHOICE: Selina Scott takes her travel brochure clichés to Spain and hobnobs with King Juan Carlos and the royal family. The contrast with the *annus horribilis* in Britain could not be greater. Here are royals at ease with themselves and their people and providing no broken marriages to stir the tabloids. The king drives a motorbike through the streets of Madrid. He also pays taxes and is happy to come on television and talk about it. In Selina's phrase, he is a "hands-on king going places in a hurry". To prove that he has the popular touch, he takes Selina up in his helicopter and invites her on his boat. Selina responds by oozing platitudes. Madrid is a "proud and modern city". The birthplace of the conqueror Cortez is "awakening to the national spirit of rediscovery". The Spanish tourist board could not wish for a better promo. (Ceefax) (2574)

6.00 News and weather (410609) **6.05 Regional News** (882777)

6.15 Classic Coronation Street. Judy Finnigan trawls through the Granada archives for scenes from the long-running soap. Les Dawson pays a special tribute to Ena Sharples. (Ceefax) (256951)

7.15 The Man Who Cried. Episode one of Stan Barstow's two-part adaptation of the novel by Catherine Cookson, set in 1932. Ciaran Hinds stars as a man who leaves his wife and home after an affair with a married woman goes tragically wrong and heads north with his son to look for work. With Kate Buffery. Part two tomorrow. (Oracle) (922777)

8.45 News and weather (448222) **9.00 Regional Weather** (753067)

9.05 You've Been Framed! Late! Jeremy Beadle introduces a selection of viewers' home video mishaps (668777)

9.50 Film: The Eiger Sanction (1975) starring Clint Eastwood, who also directs, and George Kennedy. Spy drama about a US government agent who is persuaded out of retirement to perform one more assassination — of a man climbing in the Swiss Alps. (52601222)

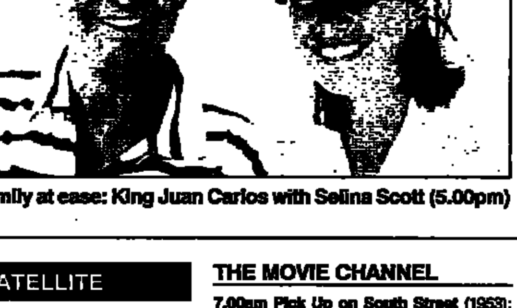
12.10am Film: Oh God! You Devil (1984). The third in a series of comedy films starring George Burns as God, and in this, the Devil as well. In the latter guise he persuades a struggling musician to sell his soul in order to become a rock star. But the man tires of fame and wants to reclaim his soul. Directed by Paul Bogart (561433)

1.55 Film: Good Guys Wear Black (1977) starring Chuck Norris. Political drama about a Vietnam veteran trying to get to the bottom of why the State Department tried to eliminate his unit. Directed by Ted Post (377617)

3.40 Film: Hunters of the Reef (1978) starring Michael Parks. Sunken treasure drama set in shark-infested waters off the Florida coast. Directed by Alexander Singer (709723)

5.25 Get Stuffed Christmas Special. Recipes for early risers (3260617)

5.55 ITN News (3356471). Ends at **6.00**



Family at ease: King Juan Carlos with Selina Scott (5.00pm)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport (r) (4830425) **6.55 Spiff and Hercules.** Animation (3663661) **7.05 Widget** (s) (4847116) **7.30 Sandokan.** Animated adventures (57796) **8.00 The Hammerman** (28845) **8.30 The Finder.** Episode one of a new ten-part children's drama (2207777) **8.55 Dennis** (2770574) **9.00 The Adventures of Tintin.** Part two of *The Black Island* (41796) **9.30 Dennis** (r) (3634390)

9.45 Flipper. Adventures of a friendly dolphin (125222)

10.15 Pro-Celebrity Golf. Hale Irwin and Sam Torrance face a challenge from five players over six holes (371609)

11.15 The Lone Ranger (b/w). Vintage western series starring Clayton Moore (146715) **11.45 Little House on the Prairie.** Adventures of a close-knit Kansas Plains family (369864)

12.45 Football Rules. The first of a six-part look at the rules of soccer, featuring the world's most famous players (91364208)

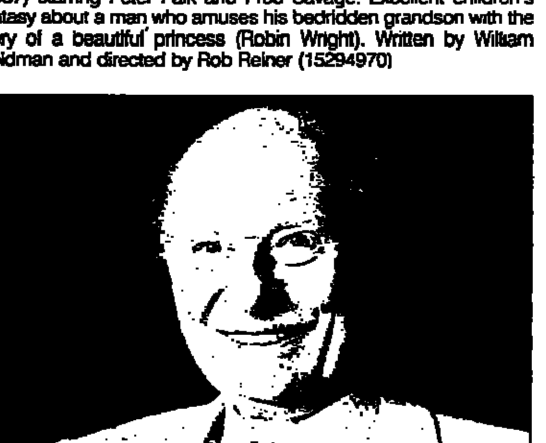
12.55 Gazza's Soccer School. Paul Gascoigne coaches youngsters (r) (5088241)

1.15 Gazzetta Football Italia. Today's match is Roma v AC Milan (57139319)

3.30 The Power of Music. A documentary about the community spirit engendered by the Lanark Music Week in May of last year (18241)

5.00 Technological Threat. Animation (6654241)

5.10 News summary (9535393) followed by **Film: The Princess Bride** (1987) starring Peter Falk and Fred Savage. Excellent children's fantasy about a man who amuses his bedridden grandson with the story of a beautiful princess (Robin Wright). Written by William Goldman and directed by Rob Reiner (15294970)



An actor's life: Sir John Gielgud recalls his career (7.00pm)

7.00 Gielgud Looks Back.
● CHOICE: Sir John Gielgud offers an hour of reminiscence and anecdote to an audience of students at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. The questioning is gentle and friendly, designed to get the great man going. He needs little encouragement. Gielgud's virtue is that he can bestow praise without gush and criticise without rancour. He is frank about his younger self, whom he describes as self-conscious, shy, vain and pushy. He admires Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench but not Lindsay Duncan in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. He recalls coaching Marlon Brando on the set of *Julius Caesar* and being embarrassed at having to speak rude words in the Resnais film *Providence*. The reference books remind us that Gielgud is 88 and has been in the business since 1921. He sounds as if he could on for ever (4194883)

8.15 Beyond the Barrier. A documentary about Bath car park attendant Philip Stef who is also a part-time "ghostbuster" (r) (379116)

8.45 American Football. The featured game is the Houston Oilers at the Buffalo Bills (9389241)

10.00 Film: Nine to Five (1980) starring Jane Fonda, Dolly Parton and Lily Tomlin. Lively office comedy about three secretaries who plot revenge on their chauvinistic boss (Dabney Coleman). Directed by Colin Higgins (8116)

12.00 Film: A Thousand Pieces of Gold (1991) starring Rosalind Chio. Drama set in 1880s America about a young Chinese woman, sold by her family into a life of prostitution, and her love affair with two men — one Chines, the other American. Subtitled where appropriate. Directed by Nancy Kelly (s) (477520). Ends at **1.55**

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VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.35 Anglia News (35372241) **12.45** Film: No Deposit, No Return (72569861) **2.55** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (48818319) **4.30-5.00** Bullseye (12) **6.05-6.15** Anglia News (882777) **1.55** Film: Perfect Friday (904810) **3.35** Backtrack 92 (1822487) **4.35-5.55** Film: Moon of the Wolf (4313471)

BORDER
As London except: 12.40 Film: Laputa: The Flying Island (71392446) **2.55** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (48818319) **4.30-5.00** Bullseye (12) **6.05-6.15** Border News (882777) **1.55** Film: Perfect Friday (904810) **3.35** Backtrack 92 (1822487) **4.40-5.55** Film: Moon of the Wolf (4313471)

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.40 Film: Laputa: The Flying Island (71392446) **2.55** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (48818319) **4.30-5.00** Bullseye (12) **6.05-6.15** Central News (882777) **5.25-5.55** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (3260617)

GRAMPIAN
As London except: 11.00 Winter on Grampian **11.15-12.00** Deanamaid Gairdeachas **12.40** Film: Laputa: The Flying Island **2.55** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story **4.30-5.00** Bullseye **1.55** Film: Perfect Friday **3.35** Backtrack 92 **4.40-5.55** Film: Moon of the Wolf

GRANADA
As London except: 12.40 Incredible Stunts and Jumps (5852338) **1.15** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (19771203) **3.00-3.30** Wish You Were Here...? (1222) **4.00** A Year in Spain (2898) **5.00-6.00** Coronation Street (2574) **1.55** Film: Perfect Friday (904810) **3.35** Backtrack 92 (1822487) **4.40-5.55** Film: Moon of the Wolf (4313471)

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.40 Film: Laputa: The Flying Island (71392446) **2.55** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (48818319) **4.30-5.00** Bullseye (12) **6.05-6.15** HTV West News (882777) **1.55** Film: Perfect Friday (904810) **3.35** Backtrack 92 (1822487) **4.40-5.55** Film: Moon of the Wolf (4313471)

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.05-6.15 HTV Wales News

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.35 Meridian News (89669870) **12.40** Film: Laputa: The Flying Island (71392446) **2.55** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (Cynthia Gibb) (48818319) **4.30** A Year in Spain (60241) **5.30-6.00** Family Fortunes (64) **6.05-6.15** Meridian News (882777)

SCOTTISH
As London except: 11.00 Blondie and Dagwood (9086) **11.30** Around the World in 15 Minutes with Peter Ustinov (4200357) **11.45-12.30** The Sunday Service (480188) **12.40** Encounter (1821203) **1.10** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (67120390) **2.45-5.00** Film: Superman II (12578880) **6.05-6.15** Scotland Today (882777)

TYNE TEES
As London except: 12.40 Film: Laputa: The Flying Island (71392446) **2.55** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (Cynthia Gibb) (48818319) **4.30** A Year in Spain (60241) **5.30-6.00** Parents (64)

ULSTER
As London except: 12.40 Incredible Stunts and Jumps (5852338) **1.35** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (Cynthia Gibb) (79258203) **3.00** Mini Champions (1222) **3.30** Bullseye (93) **4.00** A Year in Spain (2898) **5.00-6.00** Coronation Street (2574) **1.55** Film: Perfect Friday (904810) **3.35** Backtrack 92 (1822487) **4.40-5.55** Film: Moon of the Wolf (4313471)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.40 Film: Laputa: The Flying Island (71392446) **2.55** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (Cynthia Gibb, Mitchell Anderson, Peter Michael Goetz) (48818319) **4.30-5.00** Bullseye (12) **6.0** Westcountry Weekend Latest (882777) **1.55** Film: Perfect Friday (904810) **3.35** Backtrack 92 (1822487) **4.40-5.55** Film: Moon of the Wolf (4313471)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.40 Film: Laputa: The Flying Island (71392446) **2.55** Film: The Karen Carpenter Story (48818319) **4.30** A Year in Spain (60241) **5.30-6.00** Calendar (64)

S4C
Starts: 7.05 Widget (4847116) **7.30** Sandokan (57796) **8.00** Hammerman (28845) **8.30** The Finder (2207777) **8.55** Dennis (2770574) **9.00** Jelfin (41796) **9.30** Dennis (3634390) **9.45** Madstock: The Movie (389528) **10.45** Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (363680) **11.45** Little House on the Prairie (369864) **12.45** The Final Score (495593) **1.15** Football Italia: Roma v AC Milan (57139319) **3.30** Seriously Seeking Sid (28512) **4.30** Desmond's (54) **5.00** High in the Saddle (7535113) **5.05** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (3991796) **5.35** Susan Analog (753425) **6.05** Pavarotti (197280) **7.05** Hob Hwn A Holi Llail (774680) **8.00** Pris Y Farchnad (9574) **9.00** Hel Straeon (7864) **9.30** Newyddion (795375) **9.35** Saith Diwrnod Ar Y Sul (194390) **9.50** American Football: Houston Oilers v Buffalo Bills (8832113) **11.05** Rory Bremner and the Morning After the Year Before (629609) **12.05** The Prisoner (1556704) **1.05** Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am Hour of Power (56864) **7.00** Fun Factory (1642777) **11.30** The World Tomorrow (45195) **12.00** Lost in Space (27703) **1.00pm** UK Top 40 (17241) **2.00** Trapper John (77086) **3.00** Eight is Enough (45131) **4.00** Hotel (25796) **5.00** All American Wrestling (2116) **6.00** The Simpsons (27767) **7.00** 21 Jump Street (41222) **8.00** The Thorn Birds: Mini series (3/4)(532116) **11.00** Fashion TV (25425) **11.30** Skytext

SKY NEWS
Twenty-four hour news service

SKY MOVIES+
6.00am Showcase (20135)
8.00 Loving Couples (1980): Comedy with Shirley MacLaine and James Coburn (68338)
10.00 Supermom's Daughter (1990): A teenager wants to be a nursery school teacher (89680)
11.00 A Town's Revenge (1989): A woman returns to her home town (75116)
12.00 In the Line of Duty: Siege at Marion (1992): Mormons clash with police (41861)
2.00pm A Thousand Heroes (1991): Disaster story in which Charlton Heston must land a stricken plane (780203)
3.35 Kindergarten Cop (1990): Arnold Schwarzenegger goes undercover (882131)
5.30 Xposure: Film-news (8262)
6.00 1941 (1979): Steven Spielberg's comedy set six days after Pearl Harbor following the adventures of a group of American GIs in California (51609)
8.00 The Godfather Family: The making of *The Godfather* trilogy (52338)
9.00 The Godfather Part III (1990): Al Pacino as Michael Corleone (29521951)
11.50 Firestarter (1972): Drew Barrymore stars in Stephen King's horror story (937661)
1.50 Nightbreed (1990): Monster film with Craig Sheffer (23277742)
4.00 Communion (1989): Adaptation of Whitley Streiber's novel about his purported encounters with aliens. Starring Christopher Walken (763161). Ends at **5.45**

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm White Heat (1949, b/w): James Cagney as a mother-fixated gangster (8336)
6.00 Operation Kid Brother (1967): James Bond spoof (44357)
8.00 Joseph Andrews (1977): Henry Fielding's historical romance. Starring Ann-Margret and Peter Firth (16574)
10.00 Blood Brothers (1978): Drama about an Italian-American family of construction workers (73067). Ends at **11.30**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
7.00am Pick Up on South Street (1953): Pickpocket Richard Widmark accidentally steals top-secret microfilm (94965)
9.00 Its a Bikini World (1967): Beach comedy starring Tommy Kirk (46116)
11.00 The Birds and the Bees (1956): Romance set aboard an ocean liner (63715)
1.00pm Pal Joey (1957): Musical starring Frank Sinatra (40932)
3.00 Mr and Mrs Bridge (1990): Drama starring Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward (32488135)
5.10 Vestige of Honour (1990): A soldier returns to Thailand (58138680)
7.00 The Maid (1991): Martin Sheen weds on Jacqueline Bisset (98067)
9.00 Flatliners (1990): Kiefer Sutherland and Julia Roberts dice with death (53067)
11.00 The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne (1987): Spinster Maggie Smith seeks solace in the Church and the bottle (66951)
1.00am Man of Passion (1989): Painter Anthony Quinn spends the summer with his grandson (662162)
2.40 The Comfort of Strangers (1990): Psychological drama set in Venice (181568). Ends at **4.25**

SKY SPORTS
6.30am Fishing the West (81203) **7.00** European League (16195) **8.00** Motorworld (20116) **8.30** The Club Show (52715) **9.00** Jack High (35883) **10.00** Goals on Sunday (33154) **11.00** Survival of the Fittest (74086) **11.30** High Five (75715) **12.00** Trucks 'n' Tractor Power (80086) **1.00pm** FA Cup Third Round (93048) **3.00** Golf — FNB Skins 1992 (5807593) **7.00** The Big League (45999) **9.00** FA Cup Third Round (95067) **11.00** Faldo Golf Challenge (85721) **1.00-3.00am** The Big League (41742)

EUROSPORT
8.00am Step Aerobics (48512) **8.30** Trans World Sport (47883) **9.00** Euroscores Magazine (80408) **10.30** Boxing (3384338) **11.55** Ski Jumping — Four Hills Tournament (67215408) **2.15** The Year 1992 (68423501) **5.00** Euroscores Magazine (5432048) **5.05** Ski Jumping — Four Hills Tournament (7180135) **6.00** Figure Skating (86319) **8.00** Euroscores Magazine (87048) **9.00** Ice Hockey (80135) **11.00-12.00** Euroscores Magazine (29951)

SCREENSPORT
6.00am International Sports Magazine (24777) **6.30** NFL in Review (89645) **7.00** Squash — World TV Super Series (34715) **8.00** Dutch Bowling Masters (86836) **8.00** Sunair Basketball (33425) **10.00** Powerboat World (31796) **11.00** Pro Box (52947) **1.00pm** European Snooker League 1993 (228241) **3.30** Paris-Dakar Rally (7796) **4.00** ASP Surfing (6203) **4.30** Men's Pro Beach Volleyball (58861) **5.30** International Sports Magazine (6067) **6.00** Basketball Bundesliga (82593) **8.00** IHRA Drag Racing (9425) **8.30** Paris-Dakar Rally (8932) **9.00** Top Match Football (31406) **10.00** World Rally Championship 1992 (73645) **11.00** Paris-Dakar Rally (84609) **11.30** Sunair Basketball (98574) **12.30-1.00am** Omega Grand Prix Sailing (17029)

LIFESTYLE
12.00 Rambo (49241) **12.30pm** Spiral Zone (54681) **1.00** White Shadow (8768861) **1.55** Splash (1432999) **2.50** Spain Spain International Cuisine (8147135) **3.05** Festivals of the World (9454715) **3.30** Johnny Ringo (2864) **4.00** Make Room for Daddy (1999) **4.30** Gameshow (83339) **6.00** Sell-a-Vision (9934067) **10.00** Jukebox Music Videos (1866999) **2.30-3.00am** Top Five (37520)

UK GOLD
6.00am Rainbow (57340628) **6.15** Chorlton and the Wheelies (57338883) **6.30** Dangermouse (9412241) **7.00** Lassie (2882319) **7.30** Owl TV (2894154) **8.00** Chocky's Challenge (5430970) **8.30** Rentaghost (5439241) **9.00** Dr Who Omnibus (9413970) **11.00** Film: A Man Betrayed (1941, b/w) starring John Wayne (5439715) **12.30pm** Film: Ninotchka (1939, b/w) starring Greta Garbo (6149048) **2.30** To the Manor Born (7204203) **3.00** The Bill Omnibus (96219390) **5.15** Vanity Fair (42971661) **6.30** The District Nurse (7229512) **7.00** Sorry! (1420680) **7.30** To the Manor Born (7225796) **8.00** Perry Mason (70106715) **9.45** Film: In the Line of Duty — The FBI Murders (1988) starring David Soul (5131357) **11.30** Alexei Sayle's Stuff (9409777) **12.00** Alas Smith and Jones (5536365) **12.30-1.40am** In Concert. Cliff Richard — Video Connection (55517029)

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather

7.00 Sunday Morning Concert: Vaughan Williams (Overture, The Wasps); Moeran (Lonely Waters); Arnold (Concerto for piano duet and string orchestra); George Butterworth (Rhapsody, A Shropshire Lad); Leo Norman (Short Suite for String Orchestra); Coates (Springtime in Angus, Suite, The Three Elizabeths); Joseph Horowitz (Waltz Fantasy, Alice in Wonderland); Bridge (There is a willow grows aslant a brook); Kenneth Leighton (Dance Suite No 3); Matthew Curtis (Romanza for Orchestra); Rawsthorne (Overture, Street Corner)

9.00 News

9.05 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning: Waldteufel (Skaters' Waltz); Brahms (Rhapsody in G minor, Op 79 No 2); **9.20** Artist of the Week: Michala Petri, recorder, plays Diogenio Bigaglia (Sonata in A minor); Malcolm Arnold (English Dances, Set 2); Schumann (Album for the Young — excerpt); Debussy (Première Rapsodie for clarinet and orchestra); Schubert (Punschlied; Trinklied); **10.00** *Composer of the Week* preview: Strauss (Das Diner, Le bourgeois gentilhomme); Telemann (Fantasia No 6 in B flat for recorder); Bach (Christmas Oratorio, Part 5); Beethoven (Duo in E flat for viola and cello, WoO32); Saint-Saëns (Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor); Josef Strauss (Music of the Spheres, Op 235); Ravel (Introduction and Allegro); Anon (Greensleeves to a Ground); Wolf-Ferrari (Suite, The Jewels of the Madonna)

12.00 Byrd at Ingatestone: The Rose Consort of Viols, with Caroline Trevor, alto, perform music by Byrd, Holborne and Peerson, interspersed with readings by Cormac Rigby of Elizabethan Catholic verse (r)

1.00pm News

1.05 Selected Poets: In the first of seven selections of poetry from the BBC sound archives, Peter Porter introduces two W.H. Auden programmes

1.20 From the Proms 1992
● CHOICE: Continuing its commendable tradition of offering partial compensation to anyone who could not get a Prom ticket the year before, and offering the lucky ones a second chance to re-live the experience, Radio 3 today begins a 16-week run of highlights from the 1992 season. BBC orchestras are well represented as are foreign visitors including, today, the Royal Concertgebouw under Chailly playing the Bruckner No 1 (1891 Vienna version), and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4, with Maria-João Pires as soloist (r)

3.00 Britannia Triumphans: Parley of Instruments and the New London Consort perform consort music by William Brade (r)

3.30 Barbara Bonney, soprano, Geoffrey Parsons, piano, in a recital from the 1992 Edinburgh Festival, perform songs by Mendelssohn, Grieg, Strauss, Berg and Barber

4.50 BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier performs Mendelssohn (Overture, The Hebrides, Fingal's Cave); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor: Artur Pizarro); Sibelius (Symphony No 2 in D)

6.30 Jewish Choral Music: Rabbi Julia Neuberger reflects on Jewish and Christian traditions in the work of three Jewish composers. BBC Singers under Simon Preston perform Copland (In the Beginning); Bernstein (Chichester Psalms); Schönberg (Friede auf Erden)

7.30 Sunday Play: Twelfth Night. William Shakespeare's tragi-comedy, starring Joss Ackland as Sir Toby Belch, Iain Cuthbertson as Malvolio, Eve Matheson as Viola, Michael Maloney as Orsino and Rudolph Walker as Feste

9.45 Brahms — A German Requiem: Lorna Anderson, soprano; Donald Maxwell, baritone; Edinburgh Festival Chorus; BBC SSO under Leopold Hager

11.00 Music in Our Time: Recordings by the pianist Howard Riley

12.00 The Four Sections by Steve Reich (LSO under Tilson Thomas) **12.30am News**

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on **FM**

5.55am Shipping **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Prelude (s) **6.30** News; *Morning Has Broken*; Bells on Sunday from St Bartholomew's Church, London (s) **6.55** Weather **7.00** News **7.10** Sunday Papers **7.15** On Your Farm: Oliver Walston joins the monks at Portglenone, Northern Ireland **7.40** Sunday **7.55** Weather **8.00** News **8.10** Sunday Papers

8.50 Jon Snow speaks for the *Week's Good Cause* about the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence **8.55** Weather

9.00 News 9.10 Sunday Papers

9.15 Letter from America (r)

9.30 Morning Service from Netherlee Church, Glasgow

10.15 The Archers: Omnibus (s)

11.15 News Stand (s)

11.30 Pick of the Week (r) (s)

12.15pm Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway is the poet Elizabeth Jennings (s) **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World This Weekend, with Nick Clarke **1.55** Shipping

2.00 Gardeners' Question Time: Clay Jones chairs a postbag edition (s)

2.30 Sunday Playhouse: The Dream Maker. In Alex Shearer's comedy, a stranger, who claims to be able to dream the future, seeks lodgings in a village (r)

3.30 Immortal Diamonds: In the first of five programmes, Rosemary Hartill explores the relationship between God and poets through William Langland's poem "Piers Plowman" (r) (s)

4.00 News; The Magic Monosyllable: Richard Stilgoe explores 60 years of the radio quiz (s)

4.47 Welcome to My Wireless
● CHOICE: Considering that Craig Brown, who contributes humorous pieces to *The Times*, wrote it, and that Harry Enfield, a versatile television comedian, performs it, this new series about an imaginary radio personality/newspaper columnist called Wallace Arnold gets off to a surprisingly hesitant, not to mention anachronistic, start. Episode one purports to limit its targets to the fifties, yet it propels Arnold two decades ahead into Anthony Clare's psychiatrist's chair. The *Face to Face* skit is not worthy of its build-up, and the cod Presley interview fizzles out

5.00 News; Coastline: Cliff Michelmore visits Clovelly (r)

5.30 Poetry Please! Highlights of 1992 (1/2) (s) **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.15 Going Solo at the Bottle Ceremony: Adrian Mourby on dinner party rituals (r)

6.30 Word of Mouth: Frank Delaney explores spoken English (r)

7.00 God in the Palaces: Gerald Butt investigates how religion is influencing Middle East politics (r) (s)

7.30 Dinomania: Anna Grayson explores the magic and myths of the dinosaur (s)

8.00 Fourth Column Classics: Simon Hoggart recalls his favourite columnists

8.30 Word on the Street: Susan Marling meets six families of Bosnian refugees in Wincanton, Somerset

9.00 Good Enough for Yorkshire: Chris Thompson explores Asian and Afro-Caribbean cricket in Yorkshire

9.30 The Rabbit's Tale: Neil Walker on the history of the wild rabbit in Britain (r) (s) **9.59** Weather **10.00 News**

10.15 With Great Pleasure: Anthony Howard chooses writing on politics, with readers Prunella Scales and David Calder (s)

11.00 Bushbound in a Humpy: During the Depression, Rachel Webb and her children moved from South Wales to the Australian bush

11.30 Seeds of Faith: Christine Liddell visits Marion Scott at her home in Garthamlock, one of Scotland's most deprived housing estates (s)

12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.20** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Classic FM: FM-100-102

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Neale James (FM only until **6.00am**) **7.00** Bruno Brookes **10.00** Dave Lee Travis **1.00pm** Number Ones on 1 FM **2.30** Rockline **4.00** The UK Top 40 **7.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Anne Nightingale's Request Show **10.00** Gary Davies (FM only from **12.00**) **1.00-4.00am** Lynn Parsons (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Barbara Sturgeon **7.00** Don Maclean **9.05** John Sachs **12.00-7.00pm** The Vintage Years: Desmond Carrington with Radio 2 All-Time Greats; **2.00pm** Benny Green; **3.00** Alan Dell with Sounds Easy; **4.00** Sidney Torch: Master of Light Music; **4.30** Sing Something Simple; **5.00** Charlie Chester with Sunday Soapbox **7.00** Richard Baker with Melodies for You **8.30** Sunday Half Hour from Glengormley Methodist Church, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim **9.00** Alan Keith with Your Hundred Best Tunes **10.00** Radio 2 Arts Programme: Carol Allen explores Chicago **12.05am** Nick Barraclough's New Country (r) **1.00** John Terrett **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until **7.00pm.** **6.00am** World Service **6.30** Mark Curry's Weekend Edition **9.30** Tintin, by Hergé (r) **10.00** Johnnie Walker with The AM Alternative **11.30** Fantasy Football League **12.00** Football Plus: Bolton v Liverpool **2.00pm** Body Talk **2.30** Sunday Sport. Football: FA Cup third round; Rugby League, Embassy World Darts **5.30** Where Were You in...1963? (r) **6.00** A Century Remembered: 1920-1930 **6.30** The Humdrum History of the Helmet with Spike Milligan (r) **7.15** How We Worked Then (r) **7.30** Italianissimo **8.00** Language Live **9.00** Open University: Countdown to Graphs; **9.20** Mind Boggling: Post-Feminism **9.30** Box 13 **10.10** Across the Line, incl **11.00** Sport **12.00-12.10am** News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT.** **4.30am** World Business Review **4.40** Travel and Weather **4.45** Programmes in German **5.30** News; Europe This Weekend **5.55** European Sports News **5.59** Weather **6.00** News **6.15** Letter from America **6.30** Programmes in French **7.00** News **7.30** From Our Own Correspondent **7.50** Write On **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Classics with Kay **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Preview **9.15** Seeing Stars **9.30** Folk in Britain **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.01** Science in Action **10.30** In Praise of God **11.00** News **11.29** Travel **11.30** BBC English **11.45** News and British Press Review in German **Midday** News **12.01pm** Play of the Week: As You Like It **1.00** News **2.01** This Is Your Sport **2.30** Anything Goes **3.00** News **3.15** Concert Hall **4.00** News **4.10** News About Britain **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Programmes in German **5.00** News and Business Review **5.15** Letterbox **5.30** Programmes in French **6.00** News **6.30** Programmes in German **8.00** News **8.10** Folk in Britain **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Europe Tonight **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.15** Meridian **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** World Business Preview **11.15** Classics with Kay **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** In Praise of God **1.00** News **1.01** What's News? **1.15** Femmes Fatales **1.45** Musical Mavericks **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Composer of the Month: Manuel de Falla **3.00** News **3.10** News About Britain **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Anything Goes **4.00** News **4.15** On Screen

CLASSIC FM

6.00am André Leon **9.00** Classic Romance **12.00** CD Requests **2.00pm** Celebrity Choice **3.00** Robert Booth **7.00** Authentic Performances **8.00** Classic FM Concert: Heinrich Marschner (The Vampyr) **10.00** Sunday Night Out **11.00** Contemporary Classics **12.00-6.00am** André Leon

Oxfam Christmas Appeal

A child dies every 2.4 seconds for one simple reason: poverty.

In Mozambique,
3 million people face famine. Oxfam can provide tools, seeds and experience to help families feed themselves, not just today, but for years to come.

£17 could provide enough seeds for 4 people.

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OXFAM

Once upon a horrid time...

Nigella Lawson switches on to the darker side of a favourite children's author, and the brighter side of the festive offerings



NOW, everyone, put down those breakfast spoons and gather round! That's it! Heads cocked to one side like expectant little puppy dogs, scrubbed hands neatly folded in the laps of your neat grey worsted shorts! Good, good! And now all listen while I tell you the story of how one day, naughty Maureen Lipman pretended to be one of the most famous women in the whole world, Enid Blyton, and how she used lots of little boys and girls — boys and girls just like you — to help her do it!

And I'll tell you how Enid's mummy treated her horridly and her daddy left home, and how she met a very nice gentleman who was a publisher in the Big Town but who, unfortunately, was already married to Mrs Publisher, though there was almost a happy ending there — until Enid fell in love with another nice gentleman!

But most of all I'll tell you how the whole story was told in the style of an Enid Blyton tale, full of jaunty exclamation marks! And how it should have been every *bit* as irritating to watch as it is to read this!

Why *Sunny Stories*, the Boxing day edition of BBC2's *Bookmark*, was not actually irritating — or at least after the first stomach-tightening minutes — was because, for all the animated landscapes, the painted backdrops, the depiction of real childhood scenes and the slightly embarrassed children looking questioningly at the Lipman Enid Blyton as she spoke about her life and her work, the tension between the words and the pictures mounted gave the real story: the painful split between what was, and what Blyton needed to believe it to be.

She was not the first writer to use work as a salve for, and escape from, an undesirable reality. Had she perhaps written tortured prose

TV REVIEW

and plundered the introspective depths, her detractors might have understood. Her simplistic cheeriness was, for them, an unretractable insult.

Critics have often castigated Blyton for being a "female Peter Pan", one of those "claustrophobic adults who won't let children grow up". Others have pointed an accusing finger at Blyton's hypocritical insistence on the cloudless blue skies of childhood, when her own — and much of her later life — was stormy and unhappy. But, of course, her writing was not in order (initially at least) to pretend her childhood was other than it was, but to give herself the childhood she would have wished to have had.

This, too, is why the children like her. Her young readers did not all have the sort of childhoods with which she regaled them, even at the time she was writing: she was giving them the present of an idyllic life they could imagine themselves leading.

Blyton did not, however, manage to bestow the same gift on her own children. At first she had been unable to conceive. A gynaecological examination had shown her to have an undeveloped uterus: it seems shockingly fitting that she, as an adult, had the womb of a 12-year-old girl. Treatment was successful, however, and she had two daughters. The eldest, Gillian, spoke of her "golden memories" and protested that claims of her mother's failure in the role were false. Imogen, Blyton's second daughter, disappointingly born after a much-hoped-for son had been miscarried, was the one who made these claims. Imogen obviously had not wanted to collaborate with the programme makers, but Anna Massey appeared in her stead, speaking the words written in her book about her mother, *A Childhood at Green Hedges*.

One of her stories, lethally recounted, rather puts Blyton in the Antonia White league of maternal detachment: every week she, Imogen, would go down to the drawing-room to collect her pocket money, "to be paid like the servants", when one day she learnt that this distant "dark-haired woman" was in fact her mother. Up till then, her idea of what a mother was had come from books, notably Blyton's.

Blyton, away from her books and columns, obviously did not trouble to project herself as the kind of mother she wished on her fictional children. When, her agent recounted on *Bookmark*, he once congratulated her on her two "wonderful children", she fixed him in the eye, pointed to the volumes and volumes of her books proudly stacked on the shelves around her, and said: "Children! These are my children."

A great part of the success of *Sunny Stories*, of course, is attributable to Lipman's complete absorption into her role. The clipped Home Service suburban accent, the tight crimson lips, the becardiganed asperity: all was exactly so, pronounced but never descending to caricature. Her querulous, fear-stricken defence of her writing, attacked for its blacklist-earning lack of political correctness *avant la lettre*, would have convinced even meanest-minded detractors of her sincerity, whatever her other, obvious, shortcomings. Lipman's performance throughout provided the best apologia for the person.

THE portrayal of an author usually concealed beneath the covers as a fleshed-out creature on the screen is a delicate enough enterprise, but the transition from page to flickering picture can be even harder. There are so many prejudices to



Driving force behind Noddy: Enid Blyton (Maureen Lipman) used her work as a salve for, and escape from, an undesirable reality

overcome, private imaginings that are so easily shattered. *God on the Rocks*, from Jane Gardam's novel of the same name, which was Tuesday's Channel 4 *Film on Four*, held great promise and, with it, the threat of disappointment. How could it not? Jane Gardam, a ridiculously underrated writer for all that her most recent novel, *Queen of the Tambourine*, won the Whitbread prize last year, is a favourite of mine, and I have a particular passion for *God on the Rocks* (one of the few books as good as its title).

I could not but compare every scene, each frame, to my own memories of the book. Those who had not come across the book might have provided a more contented audience, for the acting and the script were impeccable. But I could not watch this without thinking sharply how uneconomical the medium of film is compared to the written form. The televised version lasts for fast on an hour and three-quarters, which is about the time, or not much less than, it would take to read the novel, which is short; and so much more happens in the book. So little, relatively, of anything other than plot can be accommodated in the film.

This is necessarily the case with screen adaptations of books, but a more specific charge can be levied at the direction. The bleak and grotesque vision of the novel was all but subsumed by the slick, period evocation. This was not a bad film, I want to stress that. On its own terms it was enjoyable, entertaining, complete: but its terms did not serve the book. If you missed the film, don't worry, go to the library instead. You will thank me.

CHRISTMAS week is always frenzied on television. Some quirky thinking, certainly, was responsible for Monday night's *Granadaland* on BBC2. The reason given for the airing was twofold: first, that when Granada started it paid its own tribute to the BBC, and now the BBC was belatedly "returning the favour"; second, that in the week that sees the new ITV franchises coming on air, it was appropriate to take a look at the longest serving independent television company.

Of course, the real reason is that everyone in television is obsessed with everyone else in television, and they presume the general public shares this fascination.

It was difficult not to, in the event. Colin Welland's *Roll On Four O'Clock* provided acute pleasure, but the high point of the evening, for me, was the pro-celebrity *University Challenge*, with Stephen Fry taking on the academic world and winning *cum laude*. Bamber Gascoigne was on slightly sycophantic form and a bit less magisterial than memory records, but it served to remind what extraordinarily, surprisingly good television this is — or rather was. Surely it's time someone was brave enough to put it back on air.

All shook up at the chance to be like Elvis

TV PREVIEW

● **Stars in their Eyes — Elvis Special**
(Tonight, 5.30pm, ITV)
The show in which members of the public impersonate their idols makes *Opportunity Knocks* look like a particularly recondite Open University series *(Nigella Lawson writes)*. The cringe factor is so high it's mesmerising. Tonight provides not the usual assortment (wannabe Michael Jacksons, Kylies, Buddy Hollys and the like) but wall-to-wall Elvis. Can you seriously consider missing it?

● **Operation Hospital**
(Tuesday, 8.30pm, Channel 4)
First in a new six-part series which takes cameras into King's College Hospital and records what has happened since, as one of the 200 hospitals to have signed up for official testing, it has been under scrutiny in each and every department. The series starts with last year's New Year's eve, when the hospital was poised to embark on its 12-month efficiency drive.

● **Inspector Morse**
(Wednesday, 8pm, ITV)
You can keep your Wexfords and your Frosts and your Lovejoys: there is no better television detective than Morse. Sadly, this is the last series, so savour it while you may.

● **Clive James — Fame in the 20th Century**
(Wednesday, 9.30pm, BBC1)
Who better than Clive James himself to field this enquiry into the nature of fame, the drive for celebrity and the cult of popular icons in an age in which images can be formulated, fabricated and disseminated with greater speed and more effectively than ever before? In this, the first of eight programmes, James fixes on, among others, Charlie Chaplin, Greta Garbo, Elvis Presley and the Princess of Wales.

● **Notes and Queries with Clive Anderson**
(Thursday, 8.30pm, BBC2)
The other Clive embarks on a new programme, based on the *Guardian* column, in which he and Carol Vorderman root around the origin of certain phrases, the truthfulness or otherwise of various received wisdoms and the nature of other serious and trivial facts and fictions. In the first in the series, Clive Anderson and his assembled experts and audience investigate why runner beans grow anti-clockwise, whether burial or cremation is the more environmentally sound, the best position to adopt if trapped in a plummeting lift and why mosquitoes bite some people and not others.

● **The Trouble with Medicine**
(Thursday, 9.30pm, BBC2)
A new series of eight inquisitive films which fixes on the implications and impact of modern medicine. The first progamme, *Code of Silence*, asks whether doctors, labouring under an increasing burden of ever newer information, know how to deal with this information in a compassionate way. Should doctors decide when, or indeed if, to withhold information from their patients? Should they be obliged to tell their patients the truth, whatever the considerations?

● **Drop the Dead Donkey**
(Thursday, 10pm, Channel 4)
A new series of one of the funniest comedy shows on television. The main plot concerns the wranglings among the staff members at an independent TV news studio; the sub-plot — generated only hours before recording begins — is the news that the presenters will be dealing with each week.



"I DON'T watch much television, but I am into *Blind Date*. I would quite fancy going on it one day, but I would be terrified of not being picked. I have lots of videos of televised horse racing. I also watch races that I have been in. You find out a lot watching yourself. I have a whole collection of my falls on tape. I thought one day I could make a horror movie out of them . . ."

● *Gee Armytage is a female jump jockey.*

The sausage of hope at the end of lonely street



IN ORDER to whirl away from the congealing grey dullness of City Town where I live, I often pack my fake leather bag with my fake stylish clothes and go wandering across the crispy newness of England. A certain brand of blithe stupidity leads me to believe that everywhere else is better than the puddle of boredom I am sitting in, and I am always dreadfully hopeful I'll find my own personal book of revelations writ bright across the night sky. I travel with my face pressed against the glass and my eyes cast upwards.

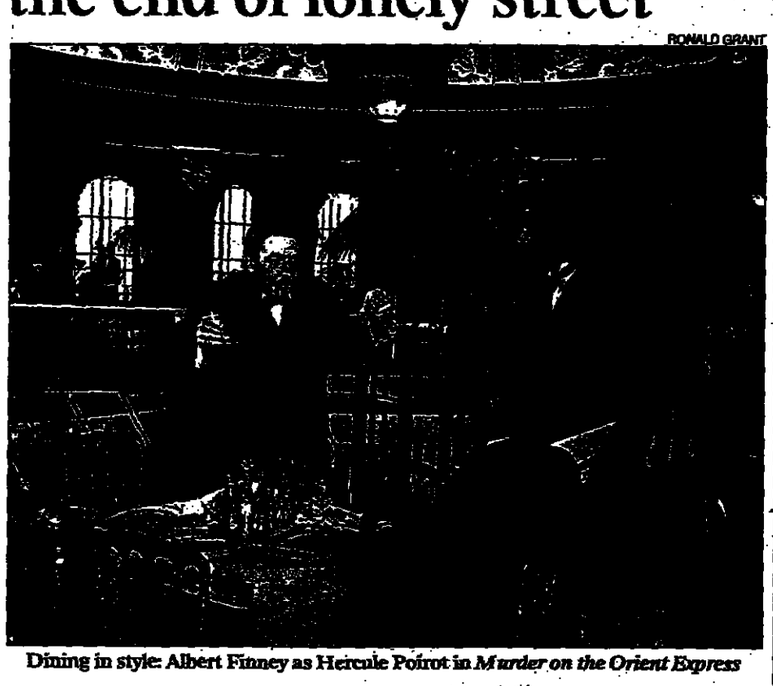
> The meaning of life waits to be found anywhere but at home

When the great bloke crisis of 1991 occurred (long story and all of it Lotesi's fault), causing Lotesi and I to evacuate to London, we checked into the cheapest hotel we could find. And what a gorgeous place it was too, readers, furnished with complimentary carpet and luxury cellular blanket, and complete with tea-making facilities — if you were prepared to balance teapot on the radiator and wait. Being of a practical turn of mind, Lotesi and I decided sleeping would be a waste of money, and we sat up all night talking instead, sprawled across our beds and steadily dropping the level in the bottle of peach wine. When we checked out early next morning, we discovered four bristly policemen in the early stages of arresting the hotel manager, his wife and three of the four waiters. We both felt that complaining about the lack of both creamer and teaspoon on our refreshment tray would have been slightly churlish.

However, I have known grandness and gold-encrusted luxury during my life. The Hotel Charge Card in a beautiful part of Genteel Retirement-on-Sea Town was the first hotel I ever swished into, and the stay was paid for by the people who were taking the other 93 per cent of my royalties.

Now, my home in City Town is the architectural extension of my being — bulging with tat and knackered records, and merrily strewn with dog hair. This makes it an obscenely comfortable place to live — however, it breeds the kind of woman who is inveterately nervous in the presence of lobbies and waiters and faultlessly white skirting-boards. I was almost crushed by an elephantine shame, stemming from the realisation that I have lived my life in squalor, and have been letting down my particular branch of the human race. The Hotel Charge Card had flannels the

RONALD GRANT



Dining in style: Albert Finney as Hercule Poirot in *Murder on the Orient Express*

size of my hand towel; hand towels the size of my bath towels; bath towels the size of my garden — and all with a genetically superior, six-inch thick pile, and a pristine, retina-damaging whiteness.

That night, when I stuttered down to dinner, I was completely lost in a sea of unseen etiquette. As my fragmentary concept of hotels and the eating in thereof had been gleaned from repeated viewing of Poirot, Miss Marple and dreadfully witty black and white films, I was under the impression that one made an effort, that one dressed up in order to shove the slivers of liver down. I swept through the door in a green velvet dress with little mirrors sewn into the sleeves, earrings like the contents of my mother's button box and a black lace mantilla to cover most of my poppy red hair. I looked like I was mourning the death of Danny La Rue. A brittle-haired waiter fell instantly into hate with me, and gave our table all the chewy vegetables.

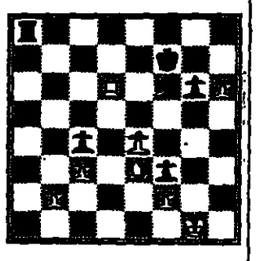
But I still clutch a vague hope that I will discover what life is all about by travelling — and every so often, I get a sign that gives me hope. I checked into Keith's All-Nite Sleepery just off Euston at four in the morning and wandered around the room, mentally clawing at the walls and the insides of my head. I was so, so tired of not knowing what to do, I was powerful irritated that I didn't know how to cheat and get life over and done with quickly. Cry? Yes, I may have howled, several times, the name of the omnipresent spirit my existence had been palmed off onto that week. Finally, I flung myself down on the floor, much as Scarlett O'Hara would have if she had been wearing a rustling anorak and wandering around a poky corner of Keith's All-Nite Sleepery — and found myself staring at half a fossilised sausage that was under my bed.

And now, whenever I wonder whether I should quit my endless wandering across the globe, I remember that half a sausage, and carry on with renewed hope across the bright face of the day.

CAITLIN MORAN

WINNING MOVE

This position is from the game Fischer — Eliskases, Mar del Plata 1960. White is two pawns up and will win eventually, but it is always good to finish as cleanly as possible. How does white ensure a quick finish here? *(Raymond Keene)*.



Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

The winners of the December 19 competition are: L O'Shea, Grays; B M Trumper, Hau Green; A Hall, Goring-By-Sea.

Solution (Dec 26): 1 Rxc7. The winners are: B Kelly, Thuboeuf, France; D R Shenton, Strathpeffer; F H Enright, Poole.

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

SIMOLEON
a. A lion-faced monkey
b. An arch heretic/traitor
c. A US dollar

JUBE
a. An urban stream
b. To rejoice, jubilate
c. An Apache tribe

MORGANITE
a. A risky stock
b. A pink beryl
c. An evangelical God-botherer

RACLETTE
a. Swiss Welsh rarebit
b. Type of red cabbage
c. A Real Tennis racket

Answers on page 2

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